

February 2010

Quarterly News from SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Parish



# News from the Pews

608 Sobieski Street Lemont, IL (630) 257-2776

## Looking for new life this Lent?



By  
Fr. Larry  
Lisowski

It has been a long, hard, cold winter; one that weighs on you like a heavy, oversized parka and leaves your muscles tired at the end of the day.

I guess that's to be expected if you live where we do. It just comes with the territory.

The gray days and dark nights of December, January and February can easily zap your inner energy. I know some people where the hardest thing for them to do all day is to just get out of bed and face another 24 hours.

I once lived with a priest who absolutely loved the snow. His favorite comment to me was, "Lar, you just have to embrace it. See its beauty. Enjoy it. Play in it. It's a gift."

I told him, "Forget it. You're nuts. I'd rather put my toes in the warm sand on a sunny beach. It beats sloshing through wet, sloppy snow and dirty salt. That's why God made Florida."

The world around us seems so lifeless during the winter months. The trees stand naked in hibernation. The grass is buried under a couple of blankets of snow; layered, hidden and asleep. The birds that usually announce the rising of the sun on a summer morning now seem to suffer from laryngitis. Even the stars in the sky at night seem to work quietly during this ordinary time, trying not to disturb the peace.

In the dead of winter very little moves, grows or stirs. The nights are dark and silent. The world slows down. And maybe we do too, inside and out.

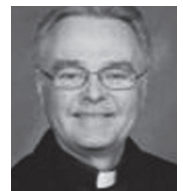
This is a powerful day when we publicly mark our special journey of faith that takes us to Palm Sunday, the rituals of Holy Week and the joy of Easter Sunday.

During Lent we are invited to pray, reflect, fast and offer works of charity so that our souls may find new life. Lent has its own way of thawing away our sins as we

encounter the constant love and mercy of our God. Lent brings new life to those parts of our life that are spiritually dead. It is a time of grace for spiritual renewal.

My prayer is that you and your family will be able to "embrace Lent" here at St. Cyril's. Don't avoid it as you would a bad Chicago winter. Come and take advantage of all the opportunities which will be offered through our parish that will help us to grow spiritually in our Catholic faith and love for the Lord. See the beauty of it! It is a gift.

In particular, join us on Monday, February 15 at 7:00 pm for an Evening of Reflection with Fr. Paul Burak, who is the pastor of St. Michael Parish in Orland Park. Fr. Paul is an experienced Spiritual Director and inspirational speaker. He will help us to prayerfully prepare for the coming of Lent by offering us ways to use our time well so that we may find new life.



So if you are looking for new life this winter, the good news is that this is the place to find it.

*Alleluia!*

**Our Parish Mission Statement** We are a family of faith, entrusted with the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Rooted in a rich tradition of worship, service, and prayer, we foster the unity and faith of this community. Enlivened by the Spirit, we share our gifts, talents, and resources to bring about the Kingdom of God.

# Keeping the momentum going in 2010 and beyond



*By Kurt Korte, Parish Council President*

While it seemed as though there was some sort of event, celebration, or gathering every month during 2009, all of a sudden things are back to “normal.” However, with so many parishioners' involvement in the events of 2009, I hope that the past year has set a new standard for what is normal.

Recently the Parish Council added new commissioners whose job it is to communicate to the various clubs, groups, and organizations throughout the parish what is happening at St. Cyril and Methodius. As we looked at the list of groups active in the parish, it was amazing to see such a large number and vast variety of organizations doing great things for our parish and surrounding community. If you enjoyed working on an event during our jubilee year, please consider helping at another event (block party, unity mass, etc.) this year.

If you are someone who makes New Year's resolutions (and keeps them!), consider becoming

a member of a parish committee (Parish Council, School Board, Athletic Commission). If it makes you feel good to help those less fortunate, volunteer for the Day Break soup kitchen, Helping Hands or the Tree of Love. The Parish Council has the opportunity to hear what the various organizations are doing at our monthly meetings, and one of the recurring themes is that each group is always looking for new members. So please consider joining one of these groups.

The Parish Council has continued to add to the “We Will... Statements” that were developed through the parish-wide surveys conducted in 2007. These surveys provided a “road map” for the Council in four main areas: Education, Parish Unity, Faith and Family Formation, and Space. As a parish, we have accomplished many of the goals that were established in the initial “We Will... Statements.” As part of this initiative, the Parish Council continues to refine the existing goals while adding new proposals to build on our wonderful history as a parish family. We will continue to

keep you informed, as we do with the renovation vision statement, of new ideas and creative solutions that will benefit SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish. ■



## News from the Pews

Quarterly publication for the SS. Cyril & Methodius parish community.

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The next issue of **News from the Pews** comes out in spring 2010. All Parish Ministries are encouraged to submit articles to share the happenings of parish life.

## Fish Fry Fridays

The Parish will be hosting a fish fry on two Fridays during Lent this year. The dates are February 26 and March 12. The times are 4:30 until 8 p.m. They will offer a white fish dinner, a meatless pasta dish for the kids, cash bar (beer and wine) and raffles.

The event will benefit the parish school.

# Putting the fun in fundraising

By Laura Klimczak, Secretary of Mother's Club



The winter fundraiser this year, sponsored by the Mother's Club, was "Late Nite Catechism's" sequel series, "Till Death Do Us Part," by Mary Pat Donovan. The evening was filled with much laughter and joy. You didn't dare walk in too late to this performance...

The sold-out show had over 300 in attendance. All enjoyed food and beverages from Ali Tucker with hospitality provided by St. Cyril's teaching staff. Donovan Entertainment's production of "Late Nite Catechism 3" was simply hilarious. Anyone who attended Catholic school in the 1960s or 1970s would be instantly familiar with the sound and cadence of Sister, who led the proceedings. Sister was in rare form, keeping an extremely orderly classroom as

she expounded on topics including Marriage and the "Blessing of the Sick" (humorously tying the two together). As with other "Late Nite" productions, audience participation was mandatory. Calling on newlyweds, long-time-weds, and not-quite-yet-weds, Sister kept the audience involved, and her "classroom" echoed with laughter. An unscripted, show-stopping highlight of the night was when Sister pulled the winning ticket for the Beat the Lotto drawing and read the winner's name: Father Larry Lisowski. Father's look of shocked surprise was priceless.

Attendees bid generously on items donated for the silent and live auctions raising funds for the parish school to be used towards the purchase of laptops, a new social studies curriculum series, and other necessary items that the

school needs in order to provide a quality Catholic education to the students. Mother's Club thanks all who donated items, as well as those who won them. Mother's Club will be sponsoring the Walk-a-Thon for the children in May.

The Beat the Lotto fundraiser was to benefit nine functions of our parish, which include School Operations, Religious Education Program, Polish Club, Mother's Club, School Board, Holy Name Society, Altar and Rosary Society, Athletic Commission and Overall Parish Operations. Congratulations to all, and a big "thank you" to everyone for making this fundraiser a success. As you can imagine, it was an unforgettable evening, packed with laughter and good times. ■



## Support our school, contact your senator

By Ed Andruszkiewicz



Hello, my name is Ed Andruszkiewicz. I am the Legislative Action Person

(LAP) for SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish School (SSCM). It is my responsibility to coordinate efforts to have all concerned individuals contact legislators to support legislation deemed advantageous to our school by

the Archdiocese. Legislation can be on the state or federal level. Our current focus is on funding at the state level. The State of Illinois has various grants and programs to give financial support to nonpublic schools, which includes our school. This funding in the past has totaled in excess of \$20,000 to \$30,000.

This value was directly beneficial to our school through the "School Safety Block Grant" (cash

disbursement) and the "Textbook Loan Program" (books). It is likely that our school will not be allocated money or books this year. If we do receive some funding, it will be greatly reduced. Other state funding, not distributed to the school itself but available to ease the cost of private education to parents includes the "Parent Transportation Reimbursement Program" and the "Tuition Tax Credit."

*(continued on page 8)*

# Parish-wide effort keeps charitable giving strong



By Liz Brohan

When it comes to taking care of families, children and neighbors in need, the parishioners of St. Cyril's can always be counted on to go above and beyond. In the midst of recovering from one of the most severe economic downturns in decades, 2009 represented another year of overwhelming generosity for two of our beloved ministries.

"Our parishioners selflessly give every time there is a need," said Kathy Jenner, who heads up the annual Tree of Love program. "It's a great tribute to the entire parish and wonderful to see firsthand."



And Kathy would know. She just completed her fourth year spearheading the enormous task of providing

over 1,500 Christmas gifts for 2009's Tree of Love campaign. "I love this program because it gets everyone in the parish involved," said Kathy, "from little kids to high school students ... moms to senior parishioners. It requires a ton of help, and we always get it."

In fact, Kathy and her team added another charity to this year's program, bringing the number of organizations receiving gifts to five, including Helping Hands, Sister House, Women's Center, St. Adalbert's and Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.

"I crossed my fingers that every child would get what they wished for, and I was not disappointed," said Kathy.

"You should have heard the screams and squeals of delight," said Father Scott Donahue, President of Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, during his homily as he celebrated the Epiphany of the Lord Mass at St. Cyril's on January 3. "Your Tree of Love gives these children more than gifts. It's about giving hope, and the understanding that there are people like you out there."



Drawing parallels from the gifts brought by the Wise Men, Fr. Scott reminded us what they represent. Specifically, that we are all called to give service to one another; called to be healers. "You have a wonderful spirit at St. Cyril. "Every year, I witness your generosity grow. And seeing the joy you brought to our 135 teenagers makes it all worth while," he concluded.

Bob Hinchley completely agrees with that assessment. Bob is a long-time Helping Hands volunteer, who now oversees the program on behalf of the parish. "St. Cyril's has a very healthy spirit of giving," said Bob. "We currently help twelve families in the area every month, and I know we could handle more."

"Parishioners help stock the Helping Hands food pantry at the beginning of each month by leaving non-perishable grocery items in the back of the church," continued Bob. But that is not the only way our parish supports the program. "Many people put special envelopes marked "Helping Hands" in the collection baskets during Mass, and we get several RE teachers and aides who donate Jewel Food cards every year as well."

What's more, the success of this well-run program recently caught the attention of Jewel Food. "In November we received 47 turkey dinners from Jewel, all because we have a built-in delivery system," said Bob. "They were looking for a partner that could immediately get the food where it needed to go, and our delivery team was the perfect answer."



Like Kathy and the added charities for The Tree of Love, resting on our laurels isn't part of Bob's plan for the Helping Hands program. One of his goals for 2010 is to better promote the program among parishioners. "By letting people know about the program, we could do even more," said Bob. "I'd love to see us expand the ministry to help people with larger, more pressing issues like housing: it's the biggest problem to overcome." ■

# Traveling through time

Inspired Art Corner By Judith Mokolke



My husband Nick and I love to travel, and one of our favorite cities is Rome. Last month we had the opportunity

to visit the Eternal City again, and spent the better part of a rainy afternoon at the Basilica of San Clemente.

San Clemente is important to artists because of the magnificent mosaics in the apse of the twelfth century church, a painting of the martyrdom of Saint Clement on the ceiling, and the magnificent Renaissance frescoes in the St. Barbara chapel. However, what makes San Clemente incredibly unique is that, like nowhere else, you can see the layers of Rome. The twelfth century basilica sits on top of a fourth century basilica, which sits on top of a second-century Mithraic (an ancient pagan cult) temple, as well as some older Roman buildings.

After paying admission, you can wander throughout all the levels—with ancient frescoes, carved altars, a schoolroom, a Roman

home, and most important to us – the burial site of St. Cyril! In the eastern corner of the fourth century basilica, a small altar with a mosaic depiction of St. Cyril above it, lies the tomb of one of our patron saints.

Just how did St. Cyril come to be buried in Rome? In an earlier article, I wrote about the brothers Cyril and Methodius being Greek, creating the Cyrillic alphabet, preaching, and converting Eastern European countries, especially Poland, to Christianity. One of the miracles said to have been performed by Saints Cyril and

Methodius was the discovery of the body of St. Clement. St. Clement was the third successor to St. Peter in Rome. The Romans were angered by St. Clement preaching Christianity, and had him martyred by tying him to an anchor and throwing him into the Crimean Sea. Eight centuries later, Saints Cyril and Methodius miraculously found his body (through an angel who parted the sea), and returned St. Clement's body to Rome for burial. St. Cyril died while they were still in Rome, and Pope Adrian insisted St. Cyril should be buried in the basilica that would be named after St. Clement.

St. Cyril's tomb in San Clemente is a pilgrimage site for many Slavs. Pope John Paul II came there on more than one occasion to pray for the people of the Slavic nations.

Travel is a mind-opening experience. We are citizens of the USA, but also citizens of the world. The people we meet, the things we learn and see, all make us more understanding of others as God's people.

We traveled thousands of miles, and found a connection to our home here at SS. Cyril and Methodius. ■



## History



"The Holy Brothers of Thessalonica highlight first the contribution of ancient Greek culture and, subsequently, the significance of the influence of the Church of Constantinople and of Eastern tradition, which has so deeply marked the spirituality and culture of so many peoples and nations in the Eastern part of the European Continent."

Pope John Paul II, *Egeriae virtutis* (31 December 1980)



# First-ever organ concert highlights world-class talent

By Susan Dziekan



December 30 was a very special evening at St. Cyril's. Approximately 200 people gathered in our beautifully

decorated church to hear fifteen compositions, played by twelve different composers on our pipe organ. Our guest organist was David Richardson, and about half of the pieces he played were sung by sopranos Olga Bojovic and our very own Miroslawa Sojka-Topór.

According to the concert program, David Richardson is a native of



Newburyport, Massachusetts, and he is a pianist and organist who performs frequently in the Boston area. He has worked on the music staffs at Boston University and the Hartt School of Music, as well as working with the Boston Lyric Opera, Granite State Opera and the Boston University Opera Institute. This past fall he was the music director and pianist for Lyric Opera of Chicago's Opera in the Neighborhood production of Donizetti's "Elixir of Love." During the summer he serves as a vocal coach with the Brevard Music

Center's Janiec Opera Company. David currently is a music director at St. Theresa's parish in North Reading, Massachusetts.

Olga Bojovic is originally from Serbia. She earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees and Certificate in Vocal Performance from Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (New York), University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and DePaul School of Music, respectively. She has received several awards and honors in the U.S. and abroad. In May 2006 she made her debut with Intimate Opera in Chicago.

Mira's interest in music began at home at a young age as she was exposed to numerous musical styles. She began formal piano lessons at the age of seven at music school in Nowy Targ, Poland. Upon arriving in the U.S., Mira continued her musical education at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and DePaul, University. She has earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Vocal Performance. In addition to concerts in Canada, Poland and numerous U.S. cities, she is, of course, our music director, vocalist and organist here at St. Cyril's.

Our original organ in the choir loft was installed in about 1929 when the church was built. That organ was blessed on May 30, 1930 and I understand a concert of religious music was held, with six choirs performing.

Unfortunately during the following decades, the organ fell into disrepair. It suffered water damage from the leaking roof, was subjected to dirt and paint debris, and over time

the old pipes and blower system deteriorated. Some parts had been bandaged together, and many keys, pipes and sounds had not functioned for years.

One of Fr. Larry's hopes for our church in this new millennium was to do a complete, well-thought-out and thorough renovation of the organ. A parish organ committee decided to do the renovation as a "combination" – Rodgers organ, a blend of wind-blown pipes and electronic digital voices—which gives an amazing degree of sound, using traditional pipe work along with the best digital sound modern technology has to offer. The project included removing all of our pipes, storing those which were still of any use, redoing the reservoirs and wind chests, redoing all the electrical controls, reinstalling pipe work, adding in new pipes and organ components from the Franciscan sisters, and interfacing with the added digital components, voicing and tuning.



We are fortunate to now have two new consoles, one up in the choir loft and one downstairs, both of which control the entire system. The current organ consoles and pipes were blessed by Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller this past October 24, 2009.

*(continues on next page)*

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The concert was a great opportunity to showcase our beautiful church and our newly renovated pipe organ. It was wonderful of David, Olga and Mira to take time out of their busy schedules to share their talents with us. And it was nice to have an opportunity to take time out of our hectic holiday schedules to take in some culture. As Fr. Larry wrote in the bulletin, it was a classy evening. Hopefully, this was the start of a new St. Cyril tradition.

Of all the compositions played, I think my personal favorite was “Variations on Adeste Fideles.” It

provided such an array of different sounds, showcasing what I imagine just scratched the surface of what our organ is now capable of. I personally witnessed some toe-tapping and head-bopping.

Mira called this an “Appreciation Concert.” She said our organ was old, broken and out of tune, and told those in attendance that because of us, and our support and financial assistance, we now have this beautiful instrument. Hopefully we will have many more concerts in the future. ■

## Youth ministry brings "Song of the Stable" to life

By  
*Mary Beth Rudis*

So often we hear on TV and on the radio and read in the newspapers about how bad teenagers are today, always getting in all sorts of trouble in the street and in school, etc.

Well, on Sunday, December 20, in a full church, St. Alphonsus, here

in Lemont we saw a different side of teenagers.

Mike Lundberg, our Tri-Parish Youth Minister, along with some of our teens in Lemont, presented “Song of the Stable,” the nativity story—a very beautiful and moving presentation.

In all of the preparations for Christmas – shopping for gifts, wrapping, baking and cleaning our houses – we adults took time out to attend this presentation and just how attentive, warm and humble our teens can be.

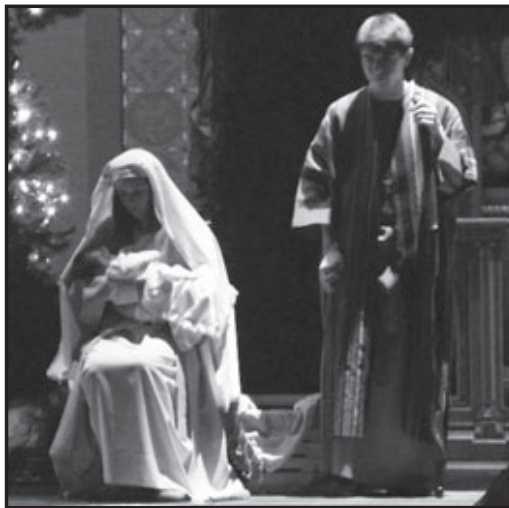
The teens in the presentation were high school students, volleyball and

basketball players, cheerleaders, wrestlers and football players. They put all of that aside and became Joseph, Mary, angels, shepherds, Wise Men, and townspeople.

We congratulate them and Mike Lundberg for putting all of us who attended in the real Christmas Spirit.

We have not forgotten baby Jesus, Cecelia, and the Little Drummer Boy for their participation also.

With a job well done by all, they certainly brought teenagers up to a higher level. ■



# "Catholic schools-dividends for life"

*By Shirley Tkachuk, Parish School Principal*



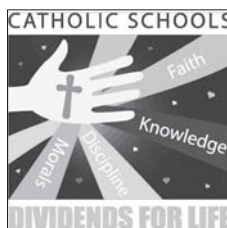
Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of what makes Catholic education special. SS. Cyril

and Methodius School recently joined with other Catholic schools throughout our country and set aside the week of January 31 to help build community awareness and involvement in our Catholic school. We share with everyone the important role of a Catholic school in providing value-added, faith-based education, and making the world a better place for all.

This event focuses attention on the good work done in Catholic schools throughout the nation, and is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The theme selected for this year was "Catholic Schools–Dividends for Life." It underscored the long-standing tradition of Catholic education to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles in life.

The logo shown here was designed for this year's celebration. It features a cross superimposed on an outstretched hand. The rays coming from behind the hand express these dividends which our students receive. SS. Cyril and Methodius School provides many good things for students and their families, including high expectations along with daily faith experiences. We are proud to be a Catholic school, and



look forward to this week each year. It includes many enjoyable events and special activities. Some of this year's highlights were our Opening Prayer Service, ProKids Family Night, Career Day, Staff Luncheon, Student Appreciation Day and Closing Liturgy.

Most important, Catholic Schools Week is also the time we celebrate the enduring value of Catholic education and focus on the gift it provides to the young people of America. It is the time we reach out to the community to build awareness of what our school offers. We thank all those who work hard each and every day to make our school excellent: parish, students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, community supporters, and local and national leaders. ■

## Support our school, contact your senator

*(continued from page 3)*

This spring, everyone concerned about continuing Catholic education must support the following initiatives:

- Reinstatement funding for the Textbook Loan Program
- Reinstatement funding for the School Safety (ADA) Block Grant
- Reinstatement funding for the Parent Transportation Reimbursement Program
- Increase the Tuition Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1000

How can we do this? By signing up to receive legislative updates that I send

out periodically. I only notify those on this list about topics relevant to Catholic education. The distribution is secure and automatic. Meaning, when I send out a notification, no one sees anyone else's email address. I use this system to let people know to contact their legislators to support certain bills in the state house or the capital. I include all necessary information, phone numbers, email addresses, sample letters and conversation information to allow individuals to contact the legislators by means they feel most comfortable.

Please, sign up for the distribution (use the following link) and contact your legislators when called upon to do so.

The Catholic children of SS. Cyril & Methodius are counting on you.

<http://lists.stcyril.org/mailman/listinfo/legal>

There will also be a rally at the Capital on March 3, 2010. I am planning on driving down and coming back that evening. If anyone can join me, it will be great to show our legislators our commitment. I intend to meet with Senator Radogno (SEN DIST 41) and Representative Jim Durkin (REP DIST 82) while down in Springfield.

Contact me at [MEANDRUSZK@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MEANDRUSZK@YAHOO.COM) if you wish to attend or for more details. ■

# Eighth-grade confirmation retreat

By Trish Nickleski, Religious Education Director



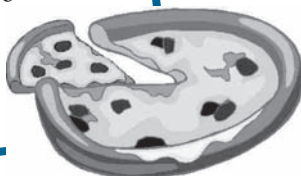
Every year our 8th-graders from the parish school and the religious education program attend a Confirmation retreat in the fall. This is one of the requirements that they must meet in order for

them to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat is run by Fr. Terry and two adult helpers. The students participate in a variety of activities on a Saturday afternoon, and we end with a teaching Mass for the students. One of the activities that the students are asked to do is work in groups on a parable describing

Church. Below I have included several of these parables for you to read. I think you will find them very interesting and a good example of how our teens work on a task given to them together, and how creative they can be.

**By: Sarah, Annie, Anne, Bridget, Margaret and Marie**

Christianity is like pizza:  
Church is like the dough.  
God is like the oven.  
Jesus is like the sauce.  
Holy Spirit is like the extra cheese.  
Ministry is the timer on the oven.  
The Bible is the ingredients.  
Baptism is the cheese.  
Reconciliation is the instructions.  
Eucharist is cooking the pizza.  
Confirmation is thin crust.  
Marriage is sharing the pizza.  
Holy Orders is thick crust.  
Anointing of the Sick is giving it to the poor.  
Heaven is a freshly cooked pizza.  
Sin is a burnt pizza.



**By: Kyle, Steven, Rob, Troy, Patryk**

Christianity is like a magazine:  
Church is like an ad.  
God is the publisher.  
Jesus is the cover.  
Holy Spirit is the binding.  
Bible is the pages.  
Ministry is the writers.  
Heaven is the store.  
Sin is the price.



**"I only included three of the parables, but all of the groups did a great job!"**

**—Trish**

**By: Kelly, Clare, Lauren, and Claire**

Christianity is like a marathon:  
The Church is like the racetrack.  
God is the organizer.  
Jesus is the starter.  
The Holy Spirit is the trainer.  
Ministry is the water boy.  
The Bible is gym shoes.  
Baptism is the starting line.  
Eucharist is the water.  
Confirmation is the sign-up/registration.  
Reconciliation is being nice to your competitors.  
Marriage is uniting with the runners who have finished.  
Holy Orders is comforting others who are struggling.  
Anointing of the sick is the masseuse used for muscles.  
Heaven is the finish line.  
Sin is cheating or taking shortcuts.



# Refleksja o darach na Uroczystość Trzech Króli

By Jan Żółtek



W uroczystość Trzech Króli nie można nie powiedzieć o darach, które Trzej Mędrcy

przynieśli nieznanemu nowonarodzonemu Bogu.

Gdy Chrystus posyłał uczniów na cały świat, powiedział do nich między innymi, „Darmo otrzymaliście, darmo dawajcie”. Wszystko jest darem od Boga. Całe stworzenie jest darem od Niego, a najcenniejszym darem jest życie ludzkie, bo sami nie staliśmy się z siebie. Pan Bóg już w Raju dał nam wszystko co nas otacza, aby nam służyło. Tam też po grzechu pierwszych rodziców, obiecał i dał nam Syna Swego Jedynego aby nas odkupił. Chrystus posłuszny woli Ojca, sam siebie ofiarował i umarł na krzyżu dla naszego zbawienia. Wcześniej zostawił nam swoje Ciało i Krew na pożywienie, oraz inne Sakramenty Święte, które przez posługę Kościoła z Jego woli założonego ciągle nam daje. W Piśmie Świętym zostawił nam swoją naukę. Mocą Ducha Świętego daje nam różnorakie dary i talenty, abyśmy korzystając z nich i nie zatrzymując ich dla siebie, dzielili się nimi z innymi. Życie ludzkie jest bezcennym darem, które Bóg przekazuje człowiekowi przez posługę rodziców. Jeżeli życie jest darem, to tego daru nie wolno nam zatrzymać dla siebie, ale mamy obowiązek przekazać go innym. Obecnie toczy się bezsensowna dyskusja na temat ochrony życia, a właściwie braku tej ochrony. Przeróżające w tym względzie jest ustawodawstwo, wynikające z ludzkiego egoizmu i nie respektowania Bożego prawa. Niejednokrotnie spotykam się z opinią kobiet, zwłaszcza młodych, niech mi one wybaczą, że „to jest moje życie, to jest moje ciało i mogę nim dysponować jak zechcę”. To prawda że twoje, ale jest darem. Paradoxem jest, że współcześni Chryścijanie, nasza egoistyczna i hedonistyczna cywilizacja

nastawiona wyłącznie na użycie, a nie na przekazywanie życia, zmierza tym samym ku upadkowi. Niektórzy z nas wychowani jeszcze w socjalizmie, nauczyli się ciągle brać, twierdzą, że im się to należy, i tak ciągle wyciągają rękę do bliźnich, do instytucji, do państwa. Zapominają, że ciągle biorąc stają się dłużnikami, a dług należałoby spłacić. A przecież większa radość jest z dawania niż z brania. W Ameryce myśmy się przyzwyczaili do okazjonalnego, spektakularno-koniunkturalnego dawania n.p. z okazji urodzin a zwłaszcza Bożego Narodzenia i ulegamy w tym względzie komercji, to biznes nam narzuca zachowania. Jakkolwiek idea słusza, to wydaje się być wypaczona. Jest w tym często zwyczajowy wymóg, a może nawet chęć pozyskania sobie przychylności obdarowanego, i wkupienia się w jego łaski. A to nie ma nic wspólnego z właściwym sensem daru, który ma być bezinteresownym gestem wynikającym z miłości. Bywa że tłumaczymy się tym: że nie mamy z czego dać, albo nie mamy komu dać, bo ludzi biednych już nie ma. Wybacz że cię zapytam. Ile ich masz? Za ile kupiłaś najmodniejsze buty? Ile razy w nich chodziłaś? Kupiłaś je bo taka moda, bo koleżanka ma takie, a ty nie możesz być gorszą. A ty ile kupiłaś alkoholu na te święta? Czy ty wiesz, że za te zbędne buty, za tę zbędną butelkę, mógłbyś, mogłabyś uratować od śmierci głodowej kilkadziesiąt istnień ludzkich. W Afryce za dolara można utrzymać jedno głodujące dziecko. Jeżeli mi nie wierzysz zapytaj misjonarzy albo zaprenumeruj Echo Afryki tylko za 8 dolarów na rok i nie tłumacz się, że to duży wydatek, bo wiem ile wydajesz na kolorowe piśmidła z życia ekscentrycznych, wyuzdanych gwiazd Hollywood. A jeśli nie masz tego jednego dolara, możesz postąpić jak św. Piotr po Zesłaniu Ducha Świętego na dziedzińcu świątynnym, gdy nie mając przy sobie nic, aby dać chromemu żebrakowi, powiedział „Złota i srebra nie mam, ale to co mam, to ci dam. W

imię Jezusa Chrystusa tobie mówię wstań i chodź”. I tak się stało. Co prawda cudu uzdrowienia nie uczynimy, ale możemy dać drugiemu wiarę. Możemy też postąpić jak św. Marcin z Tour Żołnierz rzymski, późniejszy biskup, patron ks. Marcina, patron mojej rodzinnej parafii. Spotkał kiedyś zziębniętego starca, i też mu nie miał co dać. Przeciął swój żołnierski płaszcz i okrył nim starca, którym okazał się sam Chrystus. W dawaniu trzeba nam mieć wrażliwość dziecka. Jak wspomina Arturo Mari w czasie wizytacji papieskiej pewnej rzymskiej parafii, mały chłopczyk zniecierpliwiony oczekiwaniem, przerwał kordon ochrony, podbiegł do Papieża, a w zaciśniętej rączce trzymał dla Niego cukierka, mówiąc, że nic więcej nie ma. Wzruszony Jan Paweł II przygarnął chłopca i powiedział, „przecież ja na taki prezent nie zasługuję”. My wiemy jakie otrzymywał prezenty od bogatych i głów państw.

Kiedyś Chrystus stanął sobie przy skarbonie świątynnej i przyglądał się ile kto wrzuca, tak zwyczajnie po ludzku, zupełnie jak my. Tylko że Chrystus chciał nam dać dobrą naukę, zaś my zerkamy sąsiadom przez ramię, ile dają na tacę, a później mówimy: widzisz go, trzy chałpy mo a dularka cisnon. Bo też ten dolar nie wiele dziś znaczy. Niektórzy wrzucali bardzo wiele a pewna wdowa wrzuciła 2 grosze, najmniejszy pieniądz w ówczesnej Palestynie.

Chrystus zapytał. Jak sądzicie? Kto dał więcej? I sam dał odpowiedź. Ci dali z tego co im zbywało, zaś ona dała z niedostatku swego. W Bożej ekonomii liczy się nie ilość ale intencja i dar serca. W dawaniu trzeba nam być jak bochen chleba leżący na stole, do którego każdy potrzebujący może podejść i ukroić. Tak mawiał i tak czynił św. Brat Albert Chmielowski. Tak dawała siebie na posługę najbiedniejszym św. Matka Teresa z Kalkuty. Tak Sługa Boży Jan Paweł II oddał siebie bez reszty nawet w chorobie i cierpieniu, na posługę

Kościółowi i światu. Bywa, że bliźni nie potrzebuje naszego materialnego daru, raczej uśmiechu zyczliwości, dobrego słowa, a zwłaszcza modlitwy. Na taki gest zawsze będzie nas stać. Nie miałem zamiaru mówić o sobie, ale zobligował mnie do tego ks. Marcin. Moja sąsiadka z Polski, leży sparalizowana w nursing home już od ponad roku. Wiele razy wybierałem się do niej, zawsze były jakieś przeszkody. Wreszcie w ostatnią niedzielę przed świętami postanowiłem się wybrać, zastanawiałem się co jej wziąć na prezent. W końcu nie wziąłem nic. Kiedy mnie zobaczyła, była szczęśliwa i wzruszona. Dziś wiem, że bardziej od prezentów a nawet kwiatów potrzebowała mojej obecności, wywnętrzenia się, i wspomnień z młodości. Z radości nawet nie utyskiwała na swój los. Stwierdziłem, że to ona mnie bardziej obdarowała,

bo poczułem się jakbym co dopiero odszedł od konfesjonału. Bywa że Bóg już tu na ziemi nas nagradza za dobre uczynki, choć bardziej liczymy na nagrodę niebieską. Znam autentyczny przypadek gdy pewien człowiek bardzo zaangażowany przy budowie kościoła parafialnego, któremu poświęcił wiele czasu, sił, zdrowia a nawet doznał od ludzi niezycliwych wielu upokorzeń. Został kiedyś zaproszony do Warszawy do Domu Chłopa, starsi wiedzą o czym mówię. W kiosku zakupił los za złotówkę, w tym losie nagrodą był traktor. Wtedy to był majątek. Uznał, że w ten sposób Bóg go nagroził, choć tego od Pana Boga nie wymagał. Od lat nurtuje mnie pytanie, jak ja bym się zachował, gdybym był bardzo bogatym człowiekiem, tak że na niczym by mi nie zbywało, ale mieszkałbym w dzielnicy nędzy, a z okna mojego domu musiałbym

patrzeć tym nędzarzom w oczy. Nawet nie musiałbym się ich obawiać, bo miałbym odpowiednią ochronę i zabezpieczenie. Czy mógłbym żyć spokojnie? Czy byłbym szczęśliwym? Drogie siostry, drodzy bracia, na nadchodzący tydzień i na nowy rok pragnę siebie i was pozostawić z tym pytaniem i życzyć sobie i wam abyśmy mieli sumienia wrażliwe, otwarte na potrzeby drugiego człowieka.

I aby obdarowani umieli okazać wdzięczność Bogu i ludziom. Grzech może być nie tylko wynikiem złego postępowania, ale również naszego zaniedbania i zaniechania, czyli braku dobra. Bo cokolwiek uczyniliście jednemu z braci moich najmniejszych, toście i mnie uczynili. A czego nie uczyniliście jednemu z braci moich najmniejszych, tego i mnie nie uczyniliście Szczęść Boże ■



## A vision for the youth 2010

By Michael Lundberg

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Without a vision the people will perish." In

other words, your dreams determine your destiny. To accomplish anything you must first have a mission, a goal, a hope, a vision.

The past year has brought our youth program many good things. We could not have asked for a better start to our program. First of all, the group of teens that have restarted the program are great kids. As youth minister I am so lucky to be working with such a wonderful group. They are energetic, polite, and never complain or protest any ideas. Second, what they have accomplished since September has been truly amazing. In December they got together and rehearsed for a Christmas production that they had never seen before, "Song of the Stable."

Along with the Christmas production, we have had many good meetings. One was a guest speaker, Coach Dunne, sharing his faith story. Another was about the journey we take in life. Others were

about, and the impact that faith and hope in God have in our lives. Besides all that, the teens come together at the 5:00 pm Mass at St. Pat's on Sunday nights. The teens are the lectors and cantors and some are Eucharistic ministers.

This year, thirty of the teens have signed up for the summer mission trip led by Allison Carmen. In fact, there is a waiting list for some teens who couldn't get in. This shows how eager our young people are to help others. The teens will be working on fundraisers for the mission trip in the months to come.

We are hoping to continue all this progress in 2010. We have a vision for the future. Our goals include doing more in regard to inviting more teens to take part. We are reaching out to new freshmen by inviting them to a special Lent retreat. The eighth-grade classes of 2009 were filled with great kids, and it's time to bring them into the fold of youth ministry. We will continue to produce good meetings and good service opportunities. We need to build on our 5:00 pm Mass and be a strong presence, there and continue to find

more readers and singers— maybe even start a teen choir. One of our projects includes the teens serving soup after the Ash Wednesday service at St. Cyril's. Then the teens will be working on a new production for Lent called "The Living Stations of the Cross." It will be presented on March 26, 2010 at 7:00 pm at St. Alphonsus Church. "The Living Stations" is a moving production about our Lord's Passion.

There is no end to how far our teen program can grow. One ultimate goal and ultimate vision is for the teens to have their own youth center, with a gym, pool table, air hockey, meeting room—the works. One could picture it: it's a lofty goal, but it never hurts to have a vision, for "Without a vision the people will perish," and we can't afford to have our young people perish. They have enough to fight against as it is. Thank you for everyone's support and encouragement in my first months as youth minister. May God continue to bless us in all our adventures. ■

## ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

February 17, 2010

7:00 am	English Mass
8:30 am	English Mass
10:00 am	Polish mass
12:00 noon	School Mass
4:30 pm	Prayer Service
6:30 pm	English Mass
8:00 pm	Polish Mass

### Lenten regulations

Abstinence from meats is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen years old, and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are eighteen years of age but not yet fifty-nine. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's diet.

### Lenten opportunities

*Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh...Listen!*

St. Al's will have a Lenten Bible Study for eight weeks, beginning February 9 and continuing to March 30. We will be looking at Thomas Merton's "Bridge to Contemplative Living." It is fitting for us to listen during Lent, and this study will help us to do so.

Please plan on joining us. The materials will be \$8.00 per person. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please call Doreen at (630) 257-2414 or (573) 680-3226.

We will meet in the St. Alphonsus Meeting Center from 7-8:30 pm.

Because materials need to be ordered it would be great if you could call ahead, but if you are not sure and later decide to come, that will work also. Please consider this as part of your Lenten experience this year.

### Pre-Lenten evening of reflection

There will be a pre-Lenten evening of reflection on Monday, February 15, 2010 at 7 pm in church. The speaker for the evening will be Fr. Paul Burak, who is pastor of St. Michael Parish in Orland Park. Fr. Burak will speak on the theme, "Lenten Challenges."

### Stations of the cross

English each Wednesday during Lent at 7:30 pm (except March 17 and March 31).

Polish each Friday at 7:00 pm.

### Soup and supper

Mondays, February 22 and March 1, 8, 22, and 29 at 7:30 pm at the rectory.

### Tri-Parish reconciliation service

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 7:00 pm at St. Cyril's.



## Parish Information

### Worship Services

Saturdays	7:00 A.M.	5:30 P.M.		
Sundays	7:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.	12:00 Noon	5:00 P.M. (St. Patrick's)
Masses in Polish	8:30 A.M.	1:30 P.M.		
Holy Days	As Announced			
Weekday Mornings	7:00 A.M.	8:30 A.M.		
Tuesday Evenings	8:00 P.M. (Polish)			
First Fridays	7:00 A.M.	8:30 A.M.	7:00 P.M. (Polish)	

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays	4:30 P.M.
First Friday	5:00-6:30 P.M.

### Phones

Rectory	(630) 257-2776	Gym	(630) 257-9844	Polish School	(630) 669-9058
School	(630) 257-6488	Rel. Ed.	(630) 257-9314	Counselor's Office	(312) 655-7725
Fax	(630) 257-9372	Music Minister	(630) 257-0100		

## SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish

### Pastor

Rev. Lawrence Lisowski

### Associate Pastor

Rev. Marcin Szczypula

### Pastoral Ministry

Deacon Norbert Lesnieski

### Parish School Principal

Shirley Tkachuk

### Music Ministry

Mirosława Sojka-Topór

### Director of Religious Ed

Trish Nickleski

### Liturgy Coordinator

Marietta Vargo

### Business Manager

Mary Beth Rudis

### Tri-Youth Minister

Michael Lundberg

## Check out the SS. Cyril & Methodius website!



<http://stcyril.org/whatis.html> There is a lot of new material online. The various organizations in the parish and school are all contributing new material to the website.

The Parish bulletin is updated weekly, the school calendars and homework are online, and much more information is available to help our parishioners stay up to date on parish and school activities. You can also email articles for the "News from the Pews" at [rectory@stcyril.org](mailto:rectory@stcyril.org).