

JUNE 2015



ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH

LIVING CHURCH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SVF MEN'S CLUB

Brings Men Together in Faith

It has been 20 years since Dave Castellini joined the Men's Club. In that time, he has enjoyed getting to know the other men of the parish while growing closer to the parish as a whole.

"I knew they had various events and functions and I thought this might be a way to socialize and find out some more things about the parish than I had known in the past," says Dave, a former president and current member of the Men's Club.

The Men's Club at St. Vincent Ferrer provides fellowship and promotes Catholic stewardship in the parish. The club gathers on the fourth Wednesday of every month. These monthly meetings usually include some sort of activity, a meal and discussion of any upcoming events or activities the group sponsors. Sometimes, instead of their regular meeting, the members of the Men's Club will get together to perform some kind of task for the parish, like setting up lights around the booths for the annual parish festival.



Jim McGrath, Jerry Quatman, Jerry Driscoll, Jim Belmont

"It's a way for the men of the church to have a monthly night out, and to help out," Dave says. "We do various things to help benefit the parish community."

Besides helping with various parish events and functions, the Men's Club also sponsors a number of events. Each year, the club hosts a Father-Daughter Square Dance, an Easter Egg Hunt and a "Wives Night Out." The group also awards a scholarship to two graduating eighth-grade students each year.

One of their most popular events, and their biggest fundraiser, is the St. Vincent Ferrer Men's Club Golf Outing. This year's

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STEWARDSHIP

Keeping Our Stewardship Commitments in the Summertime

Everyone deserves a vacation. After nine grueling months of school, kids get to enjoy the summer to relax and regroup before beginning a new grade. Employees, after diligently working long hours and dealing with stressful situations, deserve time away from the office to enjoy their favorite getaway. And of course, holidays like Easter and Christmas offer us the opportunity to slow down, share time with family and friends, and celebrate our faith more fully.

No one would argue that we need to mentally refresh our minds and bodies from time to time so that we can come back rejuvenated and ready to do our best.

Taking a break from some things, however, is not a possibility.

Take stewardship, for example. Imagine saying to yourself, "Well, this month I think I will not pray, not share any of my talents with anyone in need, and I will hoard my treasure." What would doing this accomplish? You certainly wouldn't feel refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to be at your best. Instead, feelings of greed, selfishness and spiritual unrest may occur. Stepping back from being a good steward just doesn't make sense.

So, now that summer has arrived in full force and our leisure time each day has increased, how can we remain good stewards?

It is likely that the regimented opportunities available during the school year are no longer available. Youth ministry and parish religious education formation may also be on summer break.

So, where do you turn? How can you keep your faith alive?

First and foremost, we must remember and keep our Lord's Day Mass obligation. The Mass is our most important prayer as Catholic Christians — it is the source and summit of our Christian lives.

In addition to Mass, don't stop praying. The slow-paced days of summer are a perfect time to quiet ourselves for a few moments and try to reconnect with God. Why not take a moment of your free time each day to read the Gospel or a spiritual reflection while lounging in a hammock?

Or, if you enjoy writing, keep a summer spiritual journal and write in it somewhere peaceful like in your backyard at dusk.

Maybe, if you like to read, you could brush up on your favorite saint while on a road trip.

Or, if you have never given it a chance, why not pick up a rosary and say one decade each day until it becomes natural to say the whole thing?

Next, try to participate in an outreach program over the summer. Think of the life of Christ — everything He did on earth was an act of service. Now, think of the gifts God has bestowed on you. He wants you to share them with others like He did, and summer gives us the time to do just that.

Or, if you are musically inclined, you can share your singing or instrumental gifts with a local nursing home. Maybe you are good in the kitchen. If so, you could offer your culinary skills to a local soup kitchen or food bank.

Being a good steward isn't just for adults. So, what can teens and young adults do to live the stewardship way of life?

If you are a strong student, you could offer tutoring services to neighborhood kids to help prepare them for the next school year.

Getting paid for volunteering sometimes happens. And, if you have a summer job while on break, you'll get a paycheck for sure. Have you ever taken an opportunity to think about sharing the first fruits of your check?

As a teen or young adult, returning a portion of your paycheck to God is an important thing to consider. After all, without Him, you wouldn't even have the talent to accomplish the job in the first place. Giving a portion back to Him is a way to say "thanks." Remember, the collection basket is not just for parents.

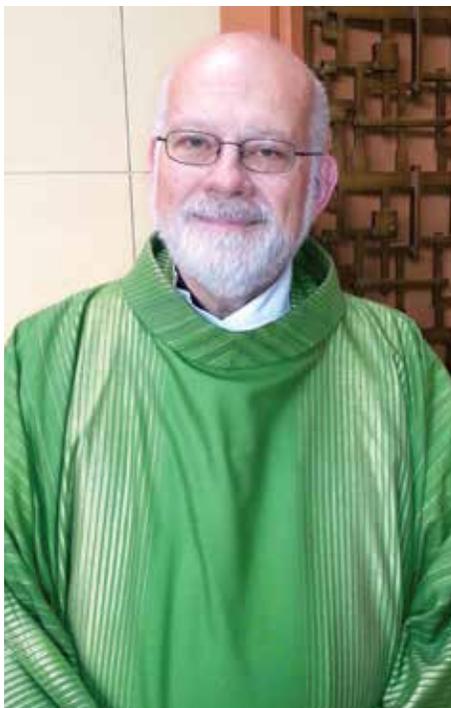
Whatever you do this summer, don't take a break from being a good steward. Remember that the time God gives you is a gift. What you do with it — whether on vacation or not — is meant to give Him glory. Why not use the extra time off to do just that?

Our Lives are Filled With Examples of Good Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

We do not have to look very hard to find examples of stewardship in our lives. It starts right here in our own parish. Think of the people who serve us in so many ways. There is a group of wonderful people who are here at the parish, sometimes every day, helping to make our faith community operate effectively, especially in terms of worship and liturgy. Then, of course, there are those who serve tirelessly and selflessly with our many parish ministries, which reach out to those around us — to those in need.

This kind of service — discipleship — is exactly what Christ was saying when He told us to “Love your neighbor.” Think of others in our Church, our communities and our lives who show us what it means to be a good steward. One of the first who comes to mind is our Holy Father, Pope Francis. His very life is a testament to what it means to serve — to be a good steward. In one of his recent homilies, the pope said, “Real power is service. Jesus reminded us ‘He came not to be served, but to serve,’ and His service was the service of the Cross. For the



Christian, getting ahead, progress, means humbling oneself. If we do not learn this Christian rule, we will never, ever be able to understand Jesus’ true message.” That is my message for both you and me — we must be willing, at times, to put our own comfort and desires aside for the needs of others.

That is what true stewardship is really all about.

Summer is upon us — we are entering that time of year when things slow down a bit, and we tend to live life at a more relaxed pace. Nevertheless, it is not a time to let our faith lives slow down. In fact, it is a great time to enrich and focus on our faith and our God.

God’s creation is all around us. As we enjoy the summer season and bask in the sun, I hope you will take time to remember the wonders of His creation and His glorious gifts. We also must strive to renew our efforts to be good stewards every day by continuing to serve others, and to be thankful for the many living examples of stewardship we see at our parish and in our daily lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. George Kunkel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. George Kunkel

Summer is upon us — we are entering that time of year when things slow down a bit, and we tend to live life at a more relaxed pace. Nevertheless, it is not a time to let our faith lives slow down. In fact, it is a great time to enrich and focus on our faith and our God.

CAMP KINDERGARTEN

Helping Kids Enter Kindergarten With Joy

That first step into the door of the kindergarten classroom can be quite intimidating for a young child. For some, it can be downright scary. Thanks to Camp Kindergarten, however, this “first step” can easily be a leap of joy instead of a leap of fear.

“Kindergartners come to St. Vincent Ferrer Parish School with such a variety of prior experiences,” Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Mikki Dunkley says. “Some of them have had a lot of preschool, and some of them haven’t. Some of them have parents who have taught them in a structured fashion, and others have not. We are offering Camp Kindergarten because we want all of our students to be comfortable on their first day of school, and feel confident about being able to do well in kindergarten.”

Camp Kindergarten is a new program that will take place at our parish school from the end of July until mid-August. It will likely consist of two sessions per week, which will familiarize prospective kindergarten students with the classroom setting and allow them to meet their future classmates, as well as their teacher. The sessions will be filled with fun activities that

enhance learning. Students will practice writing the letters of the alphabet, matching capital and lower case letters, practicing letter sounds through a variety of games, working on number identification, and following multi-step directions.

“Our goal is to help the children feel more prepared so they don’t have to try to catch up as soon as they get to kindergarten,” Mrs. Dunkley says. “We want to work with them in a smaller group social setting and introduce them to the fundamentals of kindergarten academics. Nowadays, the standards for kindergarten are so much higher than they were 10 years ago. We want to help them to get started on their basic skills so they are positioned for success.”

Overall, Mrs. Dunkley is truly looking forward to implementing Camp Kindergarten, and she looks forward to seeing her new students there.

“I love teaching kindergartners because they are at such an exciting age,” she says. “Watching them experience that ‘ah-ha’ moment as they learn something new is such a gift! I am happy to help children become prepared for elementary school in any way I can. Camp Kindergarten will not only get them



Kindergarten children enjoy a good book.



In addition to the school playground, the kindergarten has access to its own dedicated playground.

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Kindergartners often work together to complete group projects.

practically prepared for kindergarten, it will help them see it as a wonderful learning experience as well.”

For more information about this innovative preparatory program, please contact Mrs. Mikki Dunkley at dunkley_m@svf-school.org or at 513-791-6320, ext. 107.



Two thumbs up for kindergarten!

“I love teaching kindergartners because they are at such an exciting age. Watching them experience that ‘ah-ha’ moment as they learn something new is such a gift! I am happy to help children become prepared for elementary school in any way I can.” – Mrs. Mikki Dunkley

Club Brings Men Together in Faith

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Golf Outing is on June 14. The cost to participate is \$75 per person, and it includes a round of golf, a door prize, a steak dinner, open bar, and more.

“The guys who run it do a real nice job with it,” Dave says. “It’s a great value.”

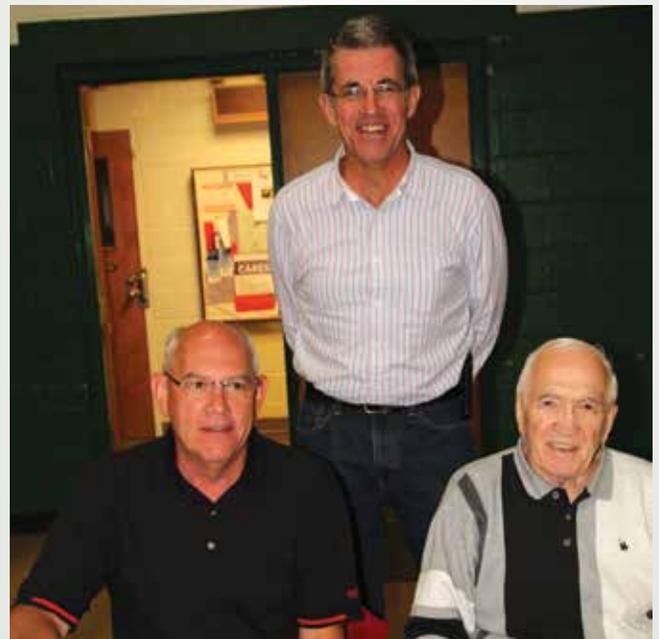
The members of the Men’s Club not only have a good time together, they also grow together as men of faith and service.

“It gives you a sense of volunteering and that you’re here to do something more than socialize,” Dave says. “And the pastor shows up, so we interact with him.”

Through the services they provide, these men are blessed in return.

“We have these various events, and when the parents or the children come back and say they had a great time, it makes you feel good,” Dave says.

All men in our parish 18 or older are welcome and encouraged to join the Men’s Club. For more information, please call Dave Castellini at 513-891-1160.



Phil Hying, Joe Petri, Charlie Niehaus



CELEBRATING THE FEAST *of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is probably the most widely recognized representation of Christ's divine love and unwavering compassion for all of humanity. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been practiced for centuries, and this devotion continues to play an important role in today's Catholic faith. As we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 12, we have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this essential Catholic devotion and its role in Church history.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart extends as far back as the 11th or 12th centuries. While there are no definitive texts or histories that verify initial devotees, it is understood that the devotion grew out of the Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries of the time. By the 16th century, documented devotional prayers and exercises had been formulated, and the ascetic writers began making more extensive reference to the Sacred Heart. But it was not until the 17th century that devotion to the Sacred Heart moved beyond being practiced on a private, individual basis. St. Jean Eudes established the first feast of the Sacred Heart, and this was shared with devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was then that the devotional feast of the Sacred Heart began to spread to other dioceses and religious communities.

However, the devotion as we know and understand it today largely stems from the visions of Jesus Christ to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. While these visions were numerous, the most remarkable revelation, known as "the great apparition," occurred during the octave of Corpus Christi in 1675. As Jesus said to Margaret Mary, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men... instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of mankind) only ingratitude."

Reporting her vision to Fr. Claude de la Colombière, Margaret Mary was then directed to write an account of the apparition. Despite her initial reluctance to do so, as well as her misgivings upon its completion, this written account would soon be published and widely read among both clergy and laymen, thus playing an instrumental role in spreading the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Another book,



The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was written by Jesuit Father Croiset after Jesus told Margaret Mary to have Fr. Croiset write it. Following Margaret Mary's death in 1690, Fr. Croiset would compose a short biography of her life that was amended to his book, which served to further increase interest and practice of the devotion.

Over the course of the next century, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus would continue to spread. By the latter half of the 18th century, a Mass of the Sacred Heart was given papal approval for Poland and Portugal, followed two decades later by Venice, Austria and Spain. Then, in 1856, the Feast of the Sacred Heart was officially established by Pope Pius IX.

While the specific readings and exercises for the feast day have been changed and replaced over the years, the basic tenets that extend back to the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque remain the same — the acknowledgment of and devotion to Christ's unending compassion and love for all of us. Indeed, the Catholic Church maintains and continues to build on this wonderful devotion. A key tradition was established in 2002, when Saint John Paul II decreed a world day of prayer for the sanctification of priests — World Priest Day — to be observed annually on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Offering the Love of Christ Through Hospitality and a Helping Hand

ST. VINCENT FERRER USHERS MINISTRY

You may have noticed a friendly face there to greet you and offer a helping hand as you enter the church at Mass times. There is an entire ministry here at St. Vincent Ferrer made up of parishioners offering their time and talent just to make you feel welcome as you arrive for Mass. The Ushers Ministry is just one of many ministries here to offer hospitality to our parishioners and visitors.

Ed DeGregorio has been a part of the Ushers Ministry for many years, and currently serves as the ministry's Coordinator. For Ed, offering his time and talent to the parish as an usher is just one way he is able to help his fellow parishioners.

"It's because of my faith that I want to help out," Ed says. "I think this ministry offers volunteers opportunities to show Christ to others. We are pretty active during Mass to make sure everything is going well, but it's really a matter of helping people."

Ushers are asked to serve on a flexible "one month on, two months off" basis, and they can choose whichever Mass works for their schedule. During Mass, Ushers have quite a few important duties, often going unnoticed by most parishioners. This is a great ministry for parishioners with busy schedules who are looking to fulfill their call to stewardship.

"We have a list of duties," Ed says. "We take up the collection, we seat people as needed, assist the family who brings up the gifts, ask people in the back if they need folding chairs, and take a head count during the homily to see how many people are there. During Communion, we look around to see if anyone might need Communion brought back to them. We are ready to assist anyone who might feel ill during Mass. And we pass out bulletins at the end."



Usher Sam Capozzolo assists with the collection

Ed would like to encourage anyone with a heart for hospitality and service that is looking to engage in our parish community to give this ministry a try. He has enjoyed meeting other parishioners through his work as an usher and sees the importance of hospitality to the growth of our parish.

"If people are made to feel welcome, they'll be more likely to join and stay with the parish. Ignoring newcomers is the worst thing you can do. Something as simple as answering questions and helping people find a seat is so important to making people feel welcome." – Ed DeGregorio



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MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY: 9:00 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

CHAPEL (PARISH CENTER):

MON-FRI: 8:30 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAY: 3:30-4:30 P.M.

ST. VINCENT FERRER USHERS MINISTRY

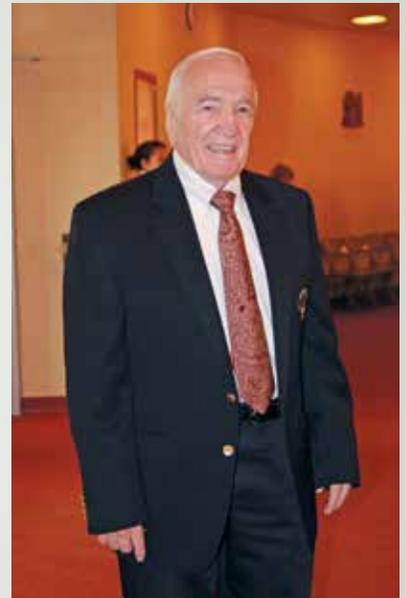
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*Ushers Sam Capozzolo and
Tina Borchard*

“This is a fun ministry because you get to know people,” Ed says. “You are able to put a name with a face and people get to know you. And it’s an important ministry. If people are made to feel welcome, they’ll be more likely to join and stay with the parish. Ignoring newcomers is the worst thing you can do. Something as simple as answering questions and helping people find a seat is so important to making people feel welcome. There are other parishes in the area, so we want people to feel welcome when they come to St. Vincent Ferrer.”

For more information on the Usher Ministry, or to find out how you can help, please contact Ed DeGregorio at 513-791-0861, or via email at epdegregorio@arh-law.com.



Usher Charlie Niehaus