

OCTOBER 2015



THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

PAGE 2

OCTOBER: HELPING TO FEED SPIRITUAL HUNGER

PAGE 3

ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH 2014 - 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

PAGE 4

UNDERSTANDING OUR PARISH ANNUAL REPORT A NOTE FROM FR. GEORGE KUNKEL

PAGE 5

TAKING A STAND FOR LIFE

PAGE 6



ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH

LIVING CHURCH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Service on the Altar Helps Young People **Bring Christ to Others**

During a recent papal address in Rome, Pope Francis told thousands of young altar servers — youth who had braved the hot summer sun just to hear him speak — that their role in service to the Lord had a threefold purpose.

“The closer you are to the altar, the more you will remember to speak with Jesus in daily prayer; the more you will be nourished by the Word and the Body of the Lord, the better able you will be to go out to others, bringing them the gift that you have received, giving in your turn, with enthusiasm, the joy you have received,” Pope Francis said.

Here at St. Vincent Ferrer, a message that starts in Rome is brought home in the everyday gestures that our altar servers perform while spending time on the altar.

“It helps with my relationship with God because that’s important as a Christian, and it helps me learn morals by serving others,” says altar server Elena Schreiber.

An eighth-grader at St. Vincent Ferrer School, Elena says she’s been serving on the altar since the fourth grade. She estimates



Left to Right: Elena Schreiber, Matthew Merritt, Fr. George

that she serves about three times a month and slightly more during the school year. Though she says she started out doing it “just because,” Elena explains that her experience has prompted her to step in where other’s might not want to help out.

“I really like it and I like helping others,” she says. “Sometimes I’ll volunteer for something and if no one else wants to do it, I’ll say that I can help do it.”

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LIVING CHURCH

THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

What makes being Catholic, well, “Catholic”?

Things like the Mass, the Rosary and the seven sacraments come to mind.

But there is also an element of Church teaching that’s often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood – Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching guides Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and lays the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be explained with 10 key points. These 10 principles demonstrate the depth of the Church’s teaching on social justice, and they call Catholics to take an active role in shaping the world in which we live. Catholic Social Teaching, when taken to heart, can become the catalyst that causes positive change in a world that desperately needs it. Consider these principles and strive to apply them in your own life.

Human Dignity

Human dignity is the fundamental principle within the Church’s teaching on social justice. A firm understanding of this principle is required so that the rest of Catholic Social Teaching can be viewed from the appropriate perspective. God created us in His image and likeness, so we all are worthy of respect.

Respect for Human Life

Whether unborn or seconds away from death, no life deserves to be prematurely ended. The Church sees this principle as crucial to the health of any society.

Association

Association holds that social relationships must be developed so that all people may reach their fullest potential. The Church teaches that the family is the basic unit upon which all other elements of society rest. We must uphold the sacredness of the family, and foster the growth of other societal organizations that preserve the well-being of all people.

Participation

All people deserve the right to work and to participate in God’s creation. The joy of accomplishing a task and performing honest labor should be made available to all people.

Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable

Society exists in a balance between those with power, and those without it. The vulnerable – those with disabilities – and the poor must be protected from those with power who choose to wield it in an unjust manner.

Solidarity

“Love your neighbor as yourself” – this commandment extends beyond the boundaries of any town, state or country. The principle of solidarity encourages all people to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need and to help them, even if they live halfway around the world.

Stewardship

Everything we have – even our own lives – is a gift from God. Our talents, our time and our financial resources are not our own, but God’s. The same goes for the natural resources we so often take for granted.

Responsibilities and Limits of Government

Governments, while created for the common good, sometimes overstep their boundaries. The Church teaches that all governments should seek to operate at the lowest level of organization possible – striving to solve problems at the source, with those who understand them best, and not through oppressive force.

Human Equality

God made all humans equal, including those of different ethnicity and race, and in different stages of life. No one person is of more value than another.

Common Good

It is especially important in our society to promote the common good – the social well-being and development of the “human group.” If we consider the entire human race as one family, the common good urges us to support our brothers and sisters so that they may reach their full potential.

October:

Helping to Feed Spiritual Hunger

Dear Parishioners,

Have you ever been hungry — really hungry? When asked that question, most of us probably think of a time when we had pangs of hunger because we were fasting, we were on a diet to lose weight, we had saved up for a big dinner, or we just decided not to indulge what we wanted. However, there are people right here in our own community who go to bed at night with real hunger. And that hunger is not without real pain.

If we expand that to our diocese, our country, and the world, untold numbers of people go to bed hungry every night. Yet, while Jesus instructed us to “feed the hungry,” He did not want us to stop at satiating simply physical hunger.

All around us, there is spiritual hunger. We all know people who have plenty to fill their stomachs, but are not really sure exactly what they want in life, living unsatisfied. Some of these people are our siblings, our children, our parents, or even our spouses.

Although so many are spiritually hungry, it may not be as apparent to us as physical hunger, because



the spirit is within us and we are weakened more slowly. Life goes on when we are spiritually hungry — but truly addressing that need is just as important for us as a Church as physically feeding the hungry. Spiritual malnourishment can be just as devastating as physical famine.

While we are aware of the reality that we, as a faith community, cannot completely eradicate physical hunger, we must do what we can to feed those around us. Both physically and spiritually, we have opportunities every day to reach out to those in need. Sometimes, it may be as simple as praying for someone. Or it may mean giving of our time, talent or treasure to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Yet, we always have an opportunity to share the greatest gift with others that alone can satiate the human heart—the love of Christ. There is no time better than today to begin. Will you reach out in love to those in need by sharing the love Christ has poured into you?

Blessed Mother Teresa advised us, “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” Let each of us vow to find that one, and feed him or her — whether physically, spiritually or both.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. George Kunkel





LIVING CHURCH

ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH

2014 - 2015 Annual Report with Comparison to 2013 - 2014

	Actual 2013-14	Actual 2014-15	Budget 2014-15	Budget 2015-16
Revenue				
Sunday & Holyday Collections	804,693	840,164	858,500	856,630
Debt Reduction and Other Gifts	55,702	35,577	36,468	34,480
Festival	60,000	34,750	50,000	40,000
Bequests	12,000	0	10,000	10,000
Capital Improvement Donations	89,096	9,750	2,500	9,750
Other Parish Income (Notes 1 & 2)	246,116	18,498	16,700	77,165
Tuition and Financial Aid	759,919	733,859	740,440	739,190
Bingo	25,000	25,000	30,000	25,000
Other School Income	64,938	68,588	42,850	64,615
Total Revenue	2,117,464	1,766,186	1,787,458	1,856,830
Expenses				
Parish Salaries, Taxes and Benefits	532,150	491,755	505,506	516,285
Parish Utilities	57,676	54,259	57,676	54,415
Office and Rectory	52,815	39,402	51,744	29,627
Archdiocese Assessment	139,318	98,123	90,000	98,000
Loan Principal & Interest	98,366	114,181	114,181	114,181
Sacrament, Ministry and Environment	47,447	84,130	76,513	82,747
Repairs and Maintenance	188,565	68,444	67,391	66,123
Other Parish Expenses	7,898	26,857	29,351	32,401
School Salaries, Taxes and Benefits	836,834	780,363	793,943	734,850
School Utilities	64,429	70,020	64,429	70,753
School Office and Administrative	53,372	55,828	53,684	43,662
Other School Expenses	23,981	24,023	23,981	25,143
Total Expenses	2,102,851	1,907,385	1,928,399	1,868,187
Excess or Deficit	14,613	-141,199	-140,941	-11,357

Note 1. The amount in Actual 2013-14 includes proceeds from the sale of land.

Note 2. The amount in Budget 2015-16 includes \$60,000 from the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Archdiocesan Campaign.

Understanding Our Parish Annual Report

A Note From Fr. George Kunkel

Dear St. Vincent Ferrer Parishioners:

Our St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Annual Report to you, our parish families, appears in this issue of the *Living Church*. Our parish completed the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015, with a deficit of \$141,200, which is close to what was predicted in the 2014-15 budget. We were able to cover this loss with parish reserve funds, which came from the one-time sale of land in 2014. These funds are now virtually depleted.

Looking ahead to the year that will end on June 30, 2016, we are presently predicting a much smaller shortfall of just over \$11,000 – however, this does not include funding for much needed parish maintenance (church boiler, overdue roof repairs). The budget improvement for 2015-16 is due in part to funds that SVF Parish will receive in 2016 from the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Archdiocesan Campaign of approximately \$60,000. As you will recall, our parish exceeded our

goal in this campaign. As pledges are paid, our parish receives a portion of the amount collected. This \$60,000 will be the first installment of a potential \$200,000 total over the next five years. In this way, our parish community is rewarded as parish families honor their campaign commitments. In addition, as good stewards of all we receive, St. Vincent Ferrer staff is looking closely at all expenses and spending. With the assistance of the Building and Finance Commission, as well as the Parish Pastoral Council, it is my desire that our parish expenses are carefully limited to only those that are necessary for prudent operations and the needs of the parish community.

In 2015-16, we will continue working with Catholic Stewardship Consultants (CSC). Over the past year, CSC has continued to publish our parish newsletter, *Living Church*. This communication enriches our faith with news and

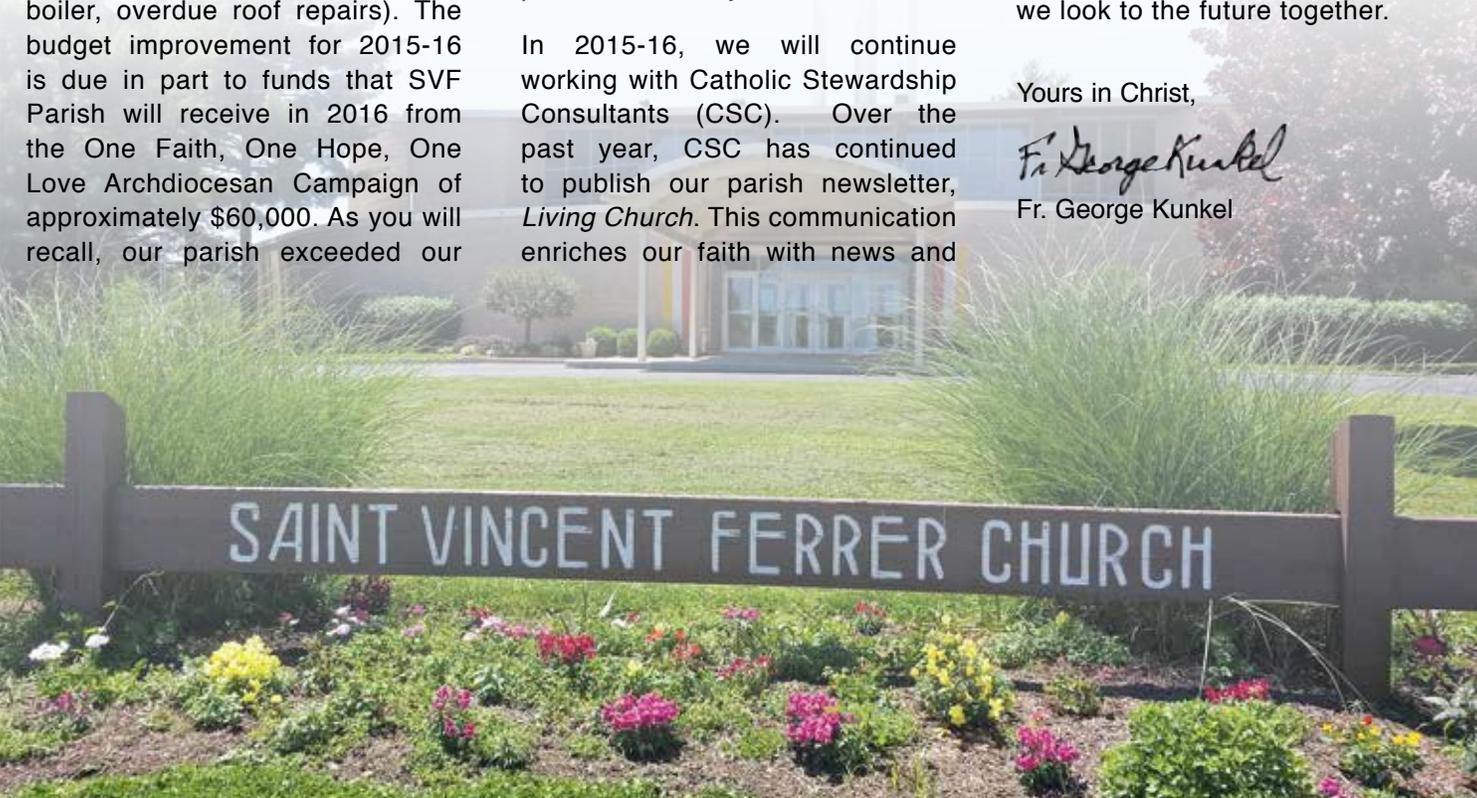
stories from our parish community. CSC has fortified our staff and ministry leaders through the annual Leadership Retreat, held for the second time this past August. CSC also helped us conduct a new Parish Survey last spring. With the CSC analysis of the survey complete, the Stewardship Commission and staff are continuing to develop action plans to address the survey results and move St. Vincent Ferrer forward. As our St. Vincent Ferrer community grows in faith, we hope to see the fruits of time, talent and treasure from this labor.

Thank you to everyone who makes St. Vincent Ferrer Parish a wonderful place to worship and grow in faith. May God bless us as we look to the future together.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. George Kunkel



SAINT VINCENT FERRER CHURCH

Taking a STAND For Life



Top row, left to right: Donna Piening, Sue Hilvert, Diana Jaeger, Jackie Brown, Joan Stamm, Karen Hulefeld... Bottom row, left to right: Hector Rios, Joan Rios and Ruth Ann Mustain



Left to right: Joan Rios, Hector Rios, Diana Jaeger, Donna Piening, Sue Hilvert, Jackie Brown, Ruth Ann Mustain, Karen Hulefeld



Joan Rios

Members of the St. Vincent Ferrer (SVF) Witness For Life Ministry are driven by one sacred passion – defending the preciousness of life.

“I have been involved in the pro-life movement for about 30 years, and I believe so strongly in defending life,” says Leader of the SVF Witness For Life Ministry Joan Rios. “When we talk about being pro-life, we are talking about saving helpless babies, and even protecting the lives of our elderly. I feel very, very drawn to pro-life ministry. Our Witness For Life Ministry calls us to stand up and honor God’s gift of life from the moment of conception to natural death. Even though our efforts haven’t closed down our local Planned Parenthood abortion facility yet, we are still trying. Just as Mother Teresa said, we are not called to be successful, but to be faithful.”

The SVF Witness For Life Ministry is a powerful, vibrant pro-life ministry at our parish that uses various means to help protect the dignity of every human life. In addition to Joan, its current members are Jackie Brown, Roberta Ferrara, Sue Hilvert, Karen Hulefeld, Diana Jaeger, Ruth Ann Mustain, Donna Piening, Marilyn Arthur, Kathy Sweeney, and Hector Rios. The ministry’s general meetings take place

“Our Witness For Life Ministry calls us to stand up and honor God’s gift of life from the moment of conception to natural death. Even though our efforts haven’t closed down our local Planned Parenthood abortion facility yet, we are still trying. Just as Mother Teresa said, we are not called to be successful, but to be faithful.” – Joan Rios

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Taking a Stand for Life *continued from previous page*

on the fourth Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Room B of the Parish Center, from August through May. Before spring and fall general meetings, weather permitting, the group begins their meeting outside in front of the Blessed Mother's statue to pray a Rosary for Life.

The Witness For Life ministry's mission statement is as follows: "St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic parish is called to stand up for and to honor God's gift of life bestowed upon all His children from the moment of conception to natural death. The SVF Witness For Life Ministry exists to promote respect, dignity and protection for life. We will accomplish this through prayer, education and action."

As far as the educational aspect goes, the ministry members seek to be a source of information about scientific, medical, and legislative issues concerning life, and create awareness of relevant Church teachings.

"Our members have been so faithful over the years," Joan says. "It is such a wonderful ministry to be involved in."

The ministry participates in 40 Days for Life on a parish level by adopting a prayer vigil time from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. one day during each of the spring and fall campaigns. Ministry members man sign-up tables after the weekend Mass prior to the adopted day at which parishioners can sign up to pray for an hour at the Planned Parenthood abortion facility on Auburn Avenue. During the campaigns, they also encourage all to attend candlelight prayer vigils, a kick-off rally and closing ceremonies in front of the facility.

During the Advent season, ministry members distribute baby bottles to our parishioners, and ask them to fill them with change and bring them back before Christmas. Last year, the effort, which is coordinated by Kathy Sweeney,



Left to right: Joan Rios, Hector Rios, Diana Jaeger, Donna Piening, Sue Hilvert, Jackie Brown, Ruth Ann Mustain, Karen Hulefeld and Joan Stamm

raised over \$2,000 for Birthright, a local pregnancy help center.

Furthermore, ministry member Jackie Brown coordinates an ongoing Infant Baptism outreach. When a baby is baptized at our parish, this outreach sends the family a beautiful congratulatory baptism card with a blessed keepsake medal of the Holy Family.

The ministry has also been busy advocating our archdiocesan prayer campaign, "Nine Months With Christ in the Womb," through which people can follow the developmental process of Christ in the womb from the Feast of the Annunciation until Christmas.

Last but certainly not least, SVF Witness For Life members have been participating in Cross the Bridge for Life, a family-friendly, pro-life prayer function

that takes place each June. This event is a sort of "march for life" during which pro-lifers cross over the bridge from Kentucky into Ohio and enjoy a reception afterward. It also includes music, face painting and more.

Overall, the SVF Witness For Life Ministry is not only promoting respect for life at all stages in amazing ways, it is also helping many grow in their Catholic faith and beliefs.

"I have noticed that my own faith and the faith of others has grown by being part of this ministry," Joan says. "I found that when we first came together as a group, it was very difficult for some of us to talk about abortion. Some new members were very skeptical about going to pray at the abortion clinic at first, but I can see how they have grown. They have really found that there is a certain peace in going to pray there. All of us feel that way. Our commitment has grown, and our trust in God – I always tell them we have to put our work in God's hands."

October is National Respect Life Month – the perfect time to take a stand for life. For more information on how to get involved with the SVF Witness For Life ministry, please call Joan Rios at 513-984-1538.



ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH

LIVING CHURCH

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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.

Service on the Altar Helps Young People Bring Christ to Others *continued from front cover*

This comes as no surprise to Fr. George Kunkel, who says it takes a lot of critical thinking to fulfill the role of altar server at St. Vincent Ferrer.

“If they’re really focused, they will have an encounter with Jesus during their service,” he says. “The Holy Father has said that for those who are really focused on the ministry of their service, it prepares them to bring Christ to others even after the service. After the Eucharist is over with, they continue to be close to the Body of Christ with those they encounter after they leave Mass.”

Fr. George says altar servers have the unique opportunity to be active participants in the Mass, which not only helps their faith in the present moment, but also just might prompt thoughts about their spiritual life in the future.

“They get to be around the priest in a unique, personal way,” he says. “I think it does help promote not only vocations to the priesthood, but also to the religious life. At the end of the Universal Prayer, we say the prayer for vocations. It may help the servers realize that Christ may be calling them, and some move on to become Eucharistic Ministers, ushers, greeters or lectors.”

If you have a young person at home who is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact the parish office at 513-791-9030. Those who serve must have completed their First Holy Communion and typically begin training during the fourth grade.