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ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH

LIVING CHURCH

PARISH NEWSLETTER



Six St. Vincent Ferrer Boys Earn Rank of Eagle Scout in Special Ceremony

Monthly camping trips. Sailing adventures to the Bahamas. Canoeing the lakes on the Canadian border. These are just some of the more exciting reasons why any boy might want to join the Boy Scouts. But it takes a special young person to also want to improve his community and make his church or school an even better place for the next person by becoming an Eagle Scout.

Six of the seven young men who recently earned their Eagle Scout Award for local Boy Scouts of America Troop 18 are St. Vincent Ferrer parishioners.



(From left) Joey DeNoma, Robby Abraham, Denis McGrath, Chris Dunkley, Andrew Luby, Eric Bryce, and Jacob McGee

“Almost all of the boys started Cub Scouts as first-graders, and nearly all of them have been together with me as the leader for 12 years,” says Troop Leader George Bryce.

According to the BSA, only about five percent of boys who participate in scouting will advance to the rank of Eagle. In order to earn this distinction, the organization requires that each boy plan, execute, and complete the Eagle Project, a special service project that shows the individual’s leadership abilities and commitment to his community. Famous past Eagle Scouts have included President Gerald R. Ford, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Sr., and Director Steven Spielberg.

The names of the boys and the types of service projects they completed are:

Robby Abraham – Installed bench, walking path and compost area at St. Vincent Ferrer School

Eric Bryce – Built steps in hillside trail at Ault Park

Chris Dunkley – Built walking bridge over creek at Turner Farms

Andrew Luby – Built walking bridge over creek at Ault Park

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THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY PRAYER

“**T**he family that prays together stays together.” This famous slogan was coined in 1947 by writer Al Scalpone, and has been frequently referenced ever since. The phrase pinpoints the true power of prayer, and the importance of making family prayer a consistent practice in our lives.

As Christian disciples, we are striving to follow Jesus – to grow in our love of Him and to serve Him through the use of our time, talent and treasure. If we desire to follow in His footsteps, we must first begin by getting to know Him. Spending time with the Lord in prayer forms a foundation on which we can build our lives as Christian disciples, much in the same way that spending time with a girlfriend or boyfriend forms the foundation of a strong relationship.

The Christian family is the first place where children learn to pray. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the family unit “Ecclesia domestica,” or “the Domestic Church” (1656). Thus, parents have a responsibility to set an example by taking time for personal prayer every day, and making family prayer a regular practice. This not only sets an example for the children, but also provides them with a faith-filled foundation and brings them closer to the Lord – forming them as grateful stewards of their time.

There are many ways in which a family can pray together. One of the most important times for prayer is before meals, where we thank God for His blessings, and for the food on our family table. Families may also share in the formal prayers of the Church, or perhaps pray a Rosary together every night. We can also thank the Lord aloud, asking Him to answer our prayers and offering Him our daily petitions. One often-suggested method of family prayer is ACTS, where we offer Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Families may also go to their church and kneel together before the Blessed Sacrament, offering prayers in Christ’s presence.

These are just several of the many opportunities for families to pray together. Of course, prayer will be influenced by each family’s dynamics and personalities. But no matter how we pray, it is important that we make the time to do so. This will deepen the family’s relationship with the Lord, our commitment as His disciples will be stronger, and we may continually renew and foster our families’ bonds.

PRAYER OF PARENTS:

God, our Father, I thank you for the gift of my children and for the privilege and responsibility of being a parent, for this is my way of holiness.

May I regard each of my children as a sacred pledge of Your love and a beautiful sign of Your confidence in me.

Help me to pass on to my children our greatest treasures - faith in Your truths, hope in Your goodness, love in Your name for all.

I entrust my children to Your loving care.

Banish from our home any bitterness or lack of forgiveness.

Let us have time, deep concern, and a sense of sacrifice for one another. Teach us never to be ashamed that we are, in name and in fact, a Catholic family striving to live in the way of Jesus, Who is head of our home.

Give us Your Holy Spirit to unite us throughout this life and let the circle of our family be unbroken in the Kingdom of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

September: An Ongoing Opportunity to Change the World

Dear Parishioners,

In his letters, St. Paul often began by greeting his “brothers and sisters.” Every time I read one of these letters, it reminds me that you and I truly are sisters and brothers in the Body of Christ, the Church, but especially here in our own parish. We need to understand that we are indeed a family, and the way we see and treat one another is fundamental to the health and happiness of this family.

Our spiritual family doesn’t stop at the walls of our church, but rather, extends to include every man and woman created in God’s image and likeness. You may be familiar with the term “Catholic Social Teaching,” which is built on a commitment to the poor. These are the beliefs that guide Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and they lay the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life. Once we make a commitment to be disciples of Jesus and pursue stewardship as a way of life, the principles of Catholic Social Teaching become very easy to incorporate into our lives.

Catholic Social Teaching has been around since those first followers of Jesus tried to balance their new faith with the realities of living in a world of Roman oppression. Jesus



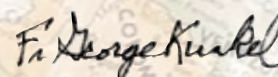
reminded His disciples then, just as He reminds us now, that caring for and administering to the poor should be at the core of all we do. Recall when the Lord said in Matthew, “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you gave me clothing; I was ill and you cared for me; I was in prison and you visited me.”

This is our foundation as we seek to embody mercy and justice to our fellow man, and should be one of our

major goals as a faith community. Many of our parish ministries provide for us an opportunity to do just as Jesus asked; to serve those most in need. As we move into the fall season, with Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas soon to follow, now is a good time for us to recommit ourselves to addressing the needs we see around us — both as a parish society and as individuals.

I am proud of our collective efforts in assisting and serving the poor, but I also know that we can do more. Many of us personally need to get involved in these efforts. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has a great love and regard for the poor and, like Jesus, he reminds us often of what we need to do. In a recent homily, Pope Francis said, “The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.” Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Fr. George Kunkel

Having a Sense of Place

The Landscape-Gardening Team

Dan and Erin Frank come naturally to the coordination of the parish Landscape-Gardening Team. Members of St. Vincent Ferrer for more than 20 years, Dan and Erin first became involved in this effort when the parish was building the school addition.

“Father asked me if I would get involved in designing the landscaping as Sycamore Township required us to submit a plan of that sort,” Dan recalls. “I have been a licensed Landscape Architect in Ohio since 1997, so it was something I could do and something I really wanted to do. After that, everything seemed to fall in place.”

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in their pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*: “The Bible contains a profound message about the stewardship of material creation: God created the world, but entrusts it to human beings. Caring for and cultivating the world involves...joyful appreciation for the God-given beauty and wonder of nature” (42).

That, of course, is the underlying motivation for what the Landscape-Gardening Team accomplishes.

But as Dan sees it, there is even more involved.

“This ministry benefits the environment by providing a sense of place, so members of the parish can see how beautiful nature is, and how well the grounds are being kept by a few dedicated people and families,” he says.

Those dedicated individuals and families are what make the parish grounds so attractive. The approach at St. Vincent Ferrer is a bit unique as parishes go.

“Erin and I heard about a parish which had an ‘Adopt a Plot’ ministry, and we decided to try it here,” Dan says. “I broke out the grounds into manageable plots, and we had sign-ups after Masses. The number of people involved has varied over the years. Currently, there are about 20 people involved. We do not have any planned days when we all work together – members of the ministry work when they have time. Occasionally, I will send out an email and ask if everyone can spruce up their areas because of Easter, First Communion, graduation, or some other special occasion. We always have room for more people to be involved. We currently have at least nine plots available.”



*Zach Young, Donna Piening
and Jackie Brown*

“This ministry benefits the environment by providing a sense of place, so members of the parish can see how beautiful nature is, and how well the grounds are being kept by a few dedicated people and families.”
– Dan Frank

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One of the particular efforts resulting from the ministry's work is the Memorial Garden.

"The Memorial Garden is an area where people can pray and meditate and reflect on all those who have been a part of the St. Vincent Ferrer family," Dan says. "Memorial bricks can be added. The funds accumulated help us buy mulch and other needed supplies. It is my hope that over the years, the eighth-grade gift back to the school might include benches for the garden. Teachers bring their students to the garden to pray and reflect."

Dan says there are too many people to thank for what has developed in the ministry, but he particularly wanted to offer gratitude to Donna Piening, Mike Antenucci, Bob Piening, Greg Spagnolo, and, of course, his wife, Erin, as well as all of those who participate in the ministry. This ministry is a particularly good example of stewardship, as members use their gifts to enhance the parish and to serve God.



Erin and Dan Frank

For more information on adopting a plot, please contact Dan Frank at 513-332-8203, or by email at dfrank@mspdesign.com

Eagle Scouts *continued from front cover*

Denis McGrath – Built retaining wall at Gorman Farms

Joey DeNoma – Designed and installed trail maps at Summit Park in Blue Ash

Jacob McGee – Built rock steps leading down to creek at French Park

Each boy was recognized and awarded his new ranking at a special ceremony, held June 15 at the Evendale Shelter House. About 75 people were in attendance, and the ceremony began with an invocation by Fr. George Kunkel.

While the Boy Scouts are not a religious organization, troops are often sponsored by churches – such as St. Saviour, which sponsors Troop 18. However, belief in a higher power is encouraged through awards such as the Ad Altare Dei award for Catholic troops. George Brice says each of these aspects of the BSA goes into fostering well-rounded young men.

"The one thing that Scouts does really well, starting in first grade, is build upon what they can learn at each age level so that when they're 18, they'll have learned a lot as a future citizen," George says. "What I focus on is individual leadership and the opportunity that they get to develop, first as a follower. As they get older, the Eagle Project is the pinnacle, where they're organizing a group of their peers and adults to accomplish something. They can build on these skills for the rest of their lives.

"That fosters good citizenship and service back to their community for their entire life – building an awareness that the world doesn't revolve around them as some teens see it," he continues. "Not all kids get that bigger picture at the same rate, but I would say for anyone that makes it through Eagle, they've dramatically increased awareness."

Parents and their children who are interested in learning more about scouting can visit beascout.scouting.org or reach out to George Bryce at mountain4@gmail.com.



“LOVE IS OUR MISSION: THE FAMILY FULLY ALIVE”

The United States Welcomes Pope Francis

Pope Francis has traveled to Israel, Brazil and Turkey, among other countries throughout the past 30 months of his papacy. Last fall, in an address to the Colloquium on the Complementarity of Man and Woman, our Holy Father announced he would travel to the United States for the 2015 World Meeting of Families.

This papal visit will be a historic event for the United States. Many expect Pope Francis to speak about immigration and our responsibility as stewards of creation along with other current topics of interest.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 22, the pontiff will travel from Cuba to the United States. The following day, the leader of our Church and the leader of our country will convene at the White House. President Obama has called Pope Francis “transformative,” publicly thanking the pontiff for his moral example and his instrumental role in furthering relations between the United States and Cuba.

After midday prayer on Sept. 23 with bishops at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Junipero Serra, the Spanish Franciscan instrumental in establishing the California missions, at a Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

In keeping with his reputation for the unprecedented, Pope Francis will then

speak to a joint session of the United States Congress on the morning of Sept. 24, thus becoming the first pope to address Congress.

Afterwards, Pope Francis will visit St. Patrick in the City and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington before departing for New York City and arriving to participate in Vespers at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

On Sept. 25, Pope Francis will become the fourth leader of the Catholic Church to visit the United Nations and speak to the United Nations General Assembly.

From the United Nations, Pope Francis will travel to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center site. There, he will lead an interfaith service for peace.

Despite his limited days on American soil, Pope Francis designated time to visit Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem. The pope will be received by a largely immigrant student population at this Partnership School, which is one of a six-school organization devoted to urban Catholic education in the communities of South Bronx and Harlem.

The celebration of Mass at Madison Square Garden concludes this last full day in New York City.

After arriving in Philadelphia on Sept. 26, Pope Francis will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints



Peter and Paul, and then speak at Independence Hall on immigration and religious freedom.

In the evening, the pope will at last arrive at the World Meeting of Families 2015, the theme of which, chosen by Pope Francis, is “Love Is Our Mission: the Family Fully Alive.” That evening, he will be the guest of honor at the Festival of Families.

On Sept. 27, the pope will convene with bishops at St. Martin’s Chapel at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary before visiting the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, where he will meet with select prisoners and their families.

In the afternoon, Pope Francis returns to the World Meeting of Families to celebrate the concluding Mass at Benjamin Franklin Parkway before departing in the evening for Rome.

As we prepare for the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis’ actions exemplify for us the Corporal Works of Mercy. Let us remember our call as Christians to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

“CHRIST IS THE REASON WHY WE’RE HERE”

Meet Mrs. Kim Roy, Our New Principal

When looking back on childhood memories, many could share an experience of an educator who made a difference in their life. Whether a teacher made a difficult subject less daunting, or even inspired a lifelong love of learning, there is no doubt – the influence of teachers is not to be underestimated.

For our new principal at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic School, Kim Roy, the inspiration for her 36-year career as a Catholic educator and administrator began in her youth – with a teacher.

“Our fourth-grade teacher really stood out, and that’s when I knew, from fourth grade on, that I wanted to be a teacher,” says Mrs. Roy, a Cincinnati local, who grew up attending Catholic schools, from grade school through high school.

Mrs. Roy’s experience in Catholic schools was overwhelmingly positive and played an important role not only in her profession, but also in her personal faith and life.

“It shaped the person that I am today,” says Mrs. Roy, mother to three grown sons.

Despite the fact that a career as a public school educator and administrator may have been more lucrative, it was never an option for Mrs. Roy. According to her, there is a distinct value to working in a Catholic parish and school.

“I think it’s because we’re able to take the most important part of our lives – our faith – and infuse that into what we do daily,” she says. “It’s a real privilege to be able to do that. People often ask me why I didn’t go to public school, and I just couldn’t do it. My faith is just such a part of me.”

Sharing the mission of Catholic education with the parish is part of Mrs. Roy’s vision as she joins the community of St.



Mrs. Kim Roy is excited to join the St. Vincent Ferrer community as our new Principal.

Vincent Ferrer. Not only is the school valuable to those who have children or grandchildren attending, but also to the parish at large.

“Christ is the reason why we’re here, and it’s the reason why they the parishioners go to church,” Mrs. Roy says. “The school is a way to bring young people into the Church. That’s why I’m here – I grew up in Catholic school. It’s to continue the Catholic faith.”

It’s important to Mrs. Roy that all members of the parish feel welcome and know that they’re part of the school community, even if they aren’t directly involved.

“Parishioners that don’t have children here, I want them to feel welcome to come in,” she says. “Give us a call, we’d love to take you around, see what it feels like to be in the school, and hopefully get the desire to come serve. I want parishioners to feel comfortable to come help.”

As the school year begins, Mrs. Roy is excited to get to know and become a part of the community at St. Vincent Ferrer.

“It seemed like a really good fit,” she says. “The school has a great family feel to it, solid academics, and the teachers that I’ve had the privilege of meeting so far are really dedicated. They have a lot of great volunteers here. It really is phenomenal. There’s a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of potential here. I’m very excited. I’m very blessed.”

You never know when your example will have an impact on the life of a child. Mrs. Roy must be making that fourth-grade teacher proud!

If you’d like to stop in, or if you have any questions, feel free to call Mrs. Roy at 513-791-6320 or email roy_k@svf-school.org.

“Christ is the reason why we’re here, and it’s the reason why they the parishioners go to church. The school is a way to bring young people into the Church. That’s why I’m here – I grew up in Catholic school. It’s to continue the Catholic faith.” – Mrs. Kim Roy, Principal



ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH

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WEEKEND LITURGY

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00 P.M.

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

DAILY LITURGY

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI: 8:30 A.M. (PARISH CENTER)

WEDNESDAY: 8:30 A.M. (CHURCH)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

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

DON'T FORGET – OUR PARISH FALL FESTIVAL!

Our community is invited to share in plenty of fun, food and fellowship at this year's Fall Festival, to be held on Sept. 25, 26 and 27. We hope to see you there!

For more information on this year's festival, please contact Jodi Kastner at 513-470-3135, Jenny Powers at 513-236-7159, or Maria Cleveland at 513-500-6650. There will also be updates in the bulletin and on the parish website at www.svfchurch.org – click on "COMING EVENTS" and then "Festival."