

Lourdes Life



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Newsletter

July, 2009


Summer Mornings . . .

Yesterday as I stepped outside the office, there was no mistaking that summer is officially here. One of those garden variety thunder storms just ended. The sun was peaking around the corners of the few lingering clouds. The air was stiflingly heavy.

There is no denying it. Summer is here with a vengeance. I do, however, love summer mornings. No longer do I need to schlep all those accessories of winter. No need to bring a coat, no need for gloves. No need for an ice scraper. What freedom. A short sleeved shirt will do just fine. The stroll to my truck is much less rushed. My psyche is awakened by the chirping of birds and the warmth of the honey-colored sun climbing over the eastern horizon. There is much more bounce in my step.

A summer morning can lure us back to less compli-

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"Isn't it ironic? In our grown-up lives, it takes planning to be carefree."

Thank you, Nub . . . Parish Honors Deacon's Retirement

By Nina Schindler--Parish Receptionist

Recently on a day in May around 11:00 a woman came into the Parish office looking for assistance. She said that she was from Tennessee and that she had fled her home in the middle of the night and started off on the interstate not even aware which direction she was going.

I have become accustomed to people showing up at the Parish Center looking for help. She had a few articles of clothing with her and nothing else. She asked my assistance in finding a domestic violence shelter. I began making phone calls the first call being to The Center for Women and Families in Louisville. They were full to the brim and weren't expecting anyone to leave. We then began calling shelters in other parts of the state. Every shelter we called gave the same response, No vacancies.

In speaking to the director of The Caring Place in Lebanon we were told that we should call back the next day; they might have a resident leaving, but at present had no space. I was very glad to see Nub come into the office because I knew that together we could help this woman. In the meantime we invited her to have a bite to eat

with us and Nub and I attempted to arrange overnight accommodations for her.

Shelters in Lexington, Elizabethtown, Bowling Green and Somerset were full as well. Nub was able to secure a room for her at a nearby hotel, but they wouldn't accept a church check, so he went with her to the hotel to register and paid with his credit card. The resident at The Caring Place did not leave the next day. That prompted more calls. The director at The Caring Place was

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Dear Friends,

I sincerely hope you are having a good summer, including some restful, relaxing times for a good book, long walks, and just some time to relax and “smell the roses!”

In this issue of **Lourdes Life**, there are just a few items regarding Parish life.

First, a great big THANK YOU to all those who planned and carried off a very successful VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL and a hot, but delightful FESTIVAL/HOMECOMING PICNIC! Both events manifested the wonderful spirit of stewardship and working together that is characteristic of Lourdes!

Secondly, I am pleased to announce that we have hired a new youth minister and have restored that position to a full-time status. Very reluctantly, we bid farewell to Mrs. Laura Zoeller, our present youth ministry coordinator, who is adjusting her life and work schedule to family needs. Our new youth minister is Mr. Chris Kolibaba. Chris has just completed his MA in theological studies at the University of Dayton and will begin work here in mid-August. There will be much more about Chris in future Parish publications. Our “Thanks” go out to Laura for her excellent service, especially in forming our young people in social justice consciousness.

Finally, just a word to urge each of you to do something special before the summer runs out to refresh and renew your spirit! It might be reading a good spiritual book, making that long delayed retreat, praying a Holy Hour in church in front of the Blessed Sacrament – whatever it is, make sure there is always significant room for God in a busy summer schedule.

May God continue to bless Lourdes!

Father Nick

Summer Mornings

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cated times in childhood when summer meant release from the weight of books, homework, and early bedtimes. We were confronted with the pleasant task of stretching play time from first light to the low rays of dwindling light at sunset. Summer mornings can be a truly liberating experience. Take pause within this gift and recognize the many burdens, precautions and protections that encumber our adult lives. I wonder? How many of these entrapments are absolutely necessary?

We carry buried hurts, unrealized fears, old grudges and unexamined prejudices. We protect ourselves from the unexpected, the uninvited and the unimagined. We prepare for the worst. We read self-judgment into someone's innocent remark. We beat ourselves up over phantom failures. We expect so much of ourselves, and are disappointed to discover that we are only human. This can really weigh us down and tire us out.

The transition from carefree childhood to responsible adulthood is often imperceptible. All too suddenly, we find ourselves with family, work, civic and church responsibilities. We have deadlines to meet, bills to pay, projects to complete, places to be, grass to mow, do it yourself home repairs tugging at us, and trash to put out. Whatever happened to those mornings when the biggest decision we had to make was who would pitch first, what could we use for bases, and should we let the girls play?

Isn't it ironic? In our grown-up lives, it takes planning to be carefree. In order to recapture the carefree freedom of our childhood summers, we need to eliminate some of the clutter. Can we confront head-on some of the hurts, fears, grudges and prejudices that have accumulated over the intervening years. Can we divest ourselves of exaggerated self-expectations? Can we finally free ourselves from the sapping effects these have on our joy and energy?

Start by turning off the TV. Unplug the computer. Put your cell phone in a drawer. Let the Blackberry go uncharged. Go outside—even if you have to take an umbrella. Walk with someone you love and enjoy each other's affection. Sit on the porch with your children and share stories. Find the time to walk alone with your Creator and recall the bountiful blessing in your life. (A simple “Thank You” will do.) Honest affection, deep gratitude and humble prayer can dislodge even the most paralyzing burdens in our hearts. Do it. Life is too short to lose those distant, carefree summer mornings.



Parish Honors Deacon Nub Miller's Retirement

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very sympathetic and suggested we call a shelter in Morehead that had helped them in the past. At last the shelter in Morehead told her to come and stay. She left that day with a few articles of clothing, several Kroger cards for gas, and \$130.00 donated from staff members.

Because of programs Nub put in place within the Parish (Kroger cards for the needy) and because Nub is the servant he is, we were able to do what Jesus would do. I am so happy and proud that we were the faces of the Catholic Church she encountered that day. Thank you, Nub for your leadership and faithful example.

As a Parish, we recognized Nub's service and celebrated his retirement with a Mass and a luncheon on June 7. His luncheon was attended by friends and family and catered by members of the parish with Chef Dave Russo in charge of the menu. The Parish presented Nub and Betty with money toward a large flat screen TV as a retirement and thank you gift.



Women Reflect at Retreat in Nerinx

By Regina Mudd

On the weekend of May 29, I attended the "Good Ol' Prayer Days" Women's Retreat at the Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Kentucky. Parishioner Alice Wissing organized and led this retreat. Leading up to this weekend, my life was filled with errands, family responsibilities, and tasks that needed to be done on this weekend. This hectic life left little time for me to breathe, to reflect, and to pray. The retreat allowed time for individual and group reflection about connecting to God through prayer.

I was given time to take walks around the grounds and was delighted to see turtles swimming in a pond and a squirrel sneaking by me with a nut. The company of women was the most fulfilling experience for me. Periodically, we met in a gathering room to sit in a circle where women volunteered to share their personal thoughts and ideas about praying to God. Some expressed feelings about wanting to pray more and find special times and places for praying on a daily basis. These ideas helped me to see that there is no right or wrong way to pray, or no right or wrong time to pray. God is in the center of our lives when we, as women, do our daily tasks and routines. I can walk and pray, offer a task to God or have a conversation with Him. Please consider taking a retreat. You will be glad that you took time to breathe in the love of God!

Zoeller leaving OLOL

By Paula Carby

It has been my pleasure to know and learn from our Youth Minister Laura Zoeller. While saying good-bye is difficult, it's the impact that she has made during her time at Our Lady of Lourdes that will last forever. She brought to our youth program a deep love of service and Christian spirit. The Confirmation Candidates learned more about their faith and how to become good stewards in both their Parish and Christian community. She organized and participated with our High School youth in a variety of service opportunities. She wanted our youth to give back to those less fortunate, teaching them how to lead a life of stewardship. As an adult volunteer with the youth program, I always admired her strong leadership, deep understanding of her faith, and the rapport she had with our youth. We wish her well in all her future endeavors.

Marriages

Angela Loi & Kevin Gibson
Nicole Bowling & Rober Kevil, Jr.
Stacie Bowling & Lucas Tuggle
Jennifer Babiak & Steven Ciszewski
Rachel Sanford & Barton Dejarnett
Amanda Stengel & Joshua Bensing



Homecoming Festival is Night of Hot Tickets

By Julianne Bibelhauser

Thanks to the estimated 300 volunteers who gave their time and talent to this year's Festival Homecoming. The Parish picnic and festivities, which took place on June 18-19, held something to enjoy for all those who traveled to St. Matthews! Congratulations to Capital Prize winners Jim Byers (\$2,500) and Rosemary O'Neil (\$5,000).

Organizing and setting up the festival, cooking over hot grills and frying pans, selling chances, setting up the inflatables for the children, making crafts, filling goodie jars, quilting, baking cakes, seeking donations, manning the gaming tables, spinning the wheels, and counting coins were only a few of the tasks which went together to make this celebration unfold.

Katie Schmitt, a 1996 OLOL graduate who worked the cashier's station in the dining area, said that many folks commented, "Wow, what a great deal!" as they passed through her line. According to Katie, fish was the definitely the best seller.

Emma Uhls, Allie Sullivan, and Elizabeth Standridge, a festive trio of OLOL 6th graders, shared that their favorite parts of the festival included the many games they enjoyed which included an obstacle course and blowup attraction where participants "playfight" with sticks. Fun Masters provided the staff which supervised the rides and generators which power the inflatables. Environment-minded volunteers Dennis Beard and Jan Wientjes, who worked to promote their game, chanted, "The plant booth is going green!"

Tom Gies, nicknamed "The Prodigal Son", an OLOL member since 2003, enjoys coming to the festival every year. A fruit basket winner, he said he faithfully donates his share of money annually to the festivals' activities!

John Kleinholter, cake booth coordinator for four years, said that there were 65-70 cakes donated. Some of

these cakes had been purchased at Plehn's Bakery and others were home-made. The cake booth maintained its popularity, as all the delicious cakes were displayed back stage.



Greg Lile, Festival Homecoming Chairperson for three years, has a competition at the end of the school year with the school kids to see who can make the most goodie jars. The winning grade gets a pizza party. Other items for the booths are purchased or bought on consignment from Mattei's Novelty.

The Festival raises around \$20,000- \$25,000 for the OLOL Booster Club annually. The Booster Club raises money for the athletic programs and takes care of the athletic fields, concession stands, and Parish Activity Center. Also, it contributes to the Campaign of Hope, funds a scholarship in the name of Father Oz in Eastern Kentucky, coordinates adult activities (Volleyball and Softball), and co-hosts a Monte Carlo Night with the PTO.

Many thanks to Plehn's Bakery, Safe-Ti-Co, JH Electric, Bowling Roofing, Isaac Contracting, John Hanley, Magnum Cycles, B&B Lampshades, Twinbrook, Rattermans, Seen's Auto, Todd Lohnert, Merkley Kendrick Jewelers, Lee Humphrey Insurance, Bloemer Chili, The Lampmaker, Louisville Roofing and Tim Woodcock DMD, who are all corporate sponsors of the Festival Homecoming. Also, much appreciation is given to all the individuals who worked together to make this community celebration a success.



More Pics from Festival Homecoming 2009



For more pictures, got to:
www.photoshow.com/watch/Nu8uS2MX



Come, Sing with Us!

By Elaine Winebrenner

As you will notice in the calendar of upcoming events, the Adult Choir will be attending their annual choir retreat which will be held on Saturday, August 15, at Mount St. Francis in Indiana 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

The retreat will include a presentation and workshop with Dr. A.T. Simpson, Professor of Music, Bellarmine University. We will also be participating and providing the music for the Feast of the Assumption liturgy in the beautiful chapel at the Mount. Also included in the day's activities will be plenty of time to enjoy the beautiful grounds and peaceful environment. We will be learning lots of new music for the upcoming choir season, and the choir's all time favorite—lots of good food and fellowship.

We would love to have you join us for this special event and to become a member of our choir. We have a wonderful season ahead of us with many opportunities for sharing your gifts and talents. If you have never sung with a choir, now is the time to be challenged, stretch a little, and become part of a music ministry that is enthusiastic and filled with the Spirit!

NEW! Our Lady of Lourdes Men's Choir

We will be introducing the newest addition to the Music Program this Fall. The OLOL Men's Choir will begin on Sunday, September 27, at the 11:30 a.m. liturgy. This choir will consist of all of our men who are currently singing in the adult choir as well as all of you who are interested in joining us once a month. Rehearsals will be held at 10:30 a.m. on the Sunday that the choir will be participating. We hope it to be a great opportunity for those of you who are not able to make the commitment to sing every weekend, and who might want to try something different and challenging. Just give Elaine a call at the Parish office if you are interested.

VBS Youth Set Cruise on the Steward Ship

By Natalie Hunter

By 9 a.m. on Monday, June 22, 160 children and teens filed excitedly into OLOL's gymnasium to embark on a week-long Vacation Bible School trip aboard the S.S. Stewardship!

Each day, the young passengers explored a different angle to the stewardship theme through storytelling, food/drink, art, physical activity, and music.

On Monday, students named their individual gifts and talents and discussed ways to show gratitude to God for those.

Reflecting on the Bible story of The Good Samaritan and on ways to share time, talent, and treasure with our Parish and other communities was the focus of Tuesday's activities. A highlight of the day was making edible cell phones as a reminder to "call on God" for help through prayer.

On Wednesday, students reflected upon the theme of "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" Students were reminded that God has a special and unique plan for each of their lives and that they need to listen and be open to His plan while nurturing their talents.



Thursday's activities involved students learning about sacrifice and what it means for Christians to sacrifice. The students listened to, discussed, and expanded upon the story of the loaves and fishes and how a young boy sacrificed for the good of all.

Friday, came quickly and the big message of "not equal giving but equal sacrifice" was explored. The story of the poor widow who gave her only coins rather than giving a tiny portion of her treasure was inspiration for students to make a treasure chest craft with time, treasure, and talent coins of their own to give.

All week long, the fourth grade students joined Ann Bruce to more fully participate in hands on stewardship. A highlight for the 4th grade group was visiting with an elderly parishioner to hear how she had lived a life of stewardship to our parish. The students then worked together to prepare meals for the parishioner.

To wrap up our week of travel on the SS Stewardship, we welcomed extra passengers aboard to join in thanksgiving and celebration through prayer and song. Students were excited to share what they'd learned with all who attended the VBS closing celebration.

Stewardship is a word we hear often at Lourdes. As active members of this faith and school community we are called to offer our "first fruits" to God in thanksgiving for His many blessings.

Planning and preparations for VBS go on year round under the direction of Ann Pifer. Thanks to all of the adults, pre-teens, and teens who volunteered their time and talent to help make VBS possible for the many passengers who "set sail" on the S.S. Stewardship this summer.

Welcome!
New Parishioners

Mavis Neumer
Todd & Judy Fieldhouse and Abigail,
Hannah & Nathaniel
Trevor Kurtz
Adam & Sara Storey and Gabriel &
Noah
Mary Amelia Dauer
Bart Gettelfinger
Cory & Mairin Jett and Nikolas
Matthew & Sarah Kendall and
William, Anna, & Katherine
Jessie & Christy Mudd
Tim & Carla Ritzie and Forrest
Greg & Robyn Rose and Logan,
Kylie & Gracie
Deborah Swan
Erik White
Kellie Schmuckie

From Lourdes to Lourdes

Parishioner Visits City of St. Peter in Lourdes, France.

By Rose Yunker

During April, I had the privilege of working for a month as a volunteer in the City of St. Peter in Lourdes, France.

Despite the six million people who visit Lourdes annually, very few have ever heard of the City of St. Peter, which is located on a hilltop high above the Sanctuary where the grotto of our Lady's eighteen apparitions to St. Bernadette took place. In contrast to the throngs of pilgrims from all over the world that crowd the esplanade and basilicas in the Sanctuary, the City of St. Peter is a place of peace and natural beauty, thirty-three acres of verdant landscape surrounded by the snow-covered Pyrenees. Founded in 1955 by Monsignor Jean Rodhain, who was also the founder of Catholic Charities in France, the City of St. Peter houses pilgrims who have financial, physical, psychological or spiritual problems and who would otherwise be unable to come to Lourdes.

The majority of the four hundred or so people that fill the six guest pavilions in the City have been certified by Secours Catholique and come with groups from their dioceses, often bringing their children with them. They are housed in rooms with showers comparable to those in two-star hotels. They are fed cafeteria-style in a huge dining room. Nobody stays for longer than five days, but for these people who often come from shabby, crowded homes in slum areas of their cities, a stay in the City must be like a dream vacation.

The City could not survive without volunteers, who are always coming and going, some arriving while others are leaving. At one point we were as many as seventy. Outside of the administrating of the City, and the cooking, all the

rest of the work is done by volunteers, many of whom come annually from long distances to render service. They clean rooms, make beds, serve in the dining room, wash the dishes, act as sacristans, answer the telephone, run the laundry, maintain the grounds, give guided tours, etc.

The City seems to me to be a kind of miracle, both because it continues to make it possible for people to be housed, fed, and cared for whether they can pay a little or nothing at all, and because it attracts large numbers of volunteers who make it possible for those in difficulty to find a welcome there. Lourdes is known the world over, but comparatively few people have ever heard of the City of St. Peter. That is such a shame for in the City the message of our Lady to Bernadette is truly lived out. Bernadette and her family were desperately poor and marginalized in the society of their day. Many of the people who come to the City live that same experience of poverty and rejection.

Please keep the work of the City in your prayers, and tell anyone you know who is going to Lourdes that they should visit the City of St. Peter.

Deaths

Evelyn McKeever
Leona Higgins
Daniel Wilson
Eileen Goodwin
Marguerite Evola
Catherine McIntyre
Anne Niehaus



Baptisms



Hannah Jane Abell
Ivanna Lejla Bozic
Macy Jean Dolle
Henry James Pritchard
Alexander Leland Ridgeway
Landon Thomas Sternberg
Elizabeth Catherine Welborn
Aidan Matthew Welborn
Anna Jo Wells
Warren Michael Wells
Mary Elizabeth Wells

Lourdes Life

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Our Lady of Lourdes Church
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Coming Attractions . . .

August 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30,
Sundays

Family Choir at 11:30 a.m. Mass
Arrive for rehearsals at 10:45 p.m.

August 15

Choir Retreat at Mount St. Francis

August 26

6:00 p.m., ERE Registration and Pot Luck

September 2

7:00 p.m., First Adult Choir Rehearsal

September 6

9:30 a.m. First Choir Liturgy



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www.ourlourdes.org

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