



A new look at our mission

~ Robert Bacic

A few months ago, you were introduced to the parish's new Pastoral Council. (See the February 2010 edition of *The Triumph*.)

This Council is charged with developing a pastoral plan for the parish that will guide Holy Cross' ministries and activities for the next five years. Last year, Archbishop Naumann oversaw the completion of a regional pastoral plan for Johnson County, and he has asked each Johnson County parish and school to also develop a plan in order to identify and address its particular needs.

The planning process involves several steps: (1) developing a mission statement, (2) articulating a vision for the parish, (3) gathering information about our current situation, (4) sorting through this information for what is pertinent to the parish's future, and based on this

work, and in conversation with the parish leadership, creating goals that will point us in a positive direction.

The Pastoral Council has just completed the first two steps of the process, and is preparing to begin step three. The new mission statement should sound familiar. Parishioners were given the opportunity to comment on it earlier in the spring. The feedback the Council received was generally positive, resulting in the following mission statement: "Holy Cross is a diverse community, welcoming and accepting, united in Catholic faith and committed to forming people in the image of Christ to serve the Lord and our neighbor." It is the vision of the Pastoral Council that if Holy Cross accomplishes this mission, we will become a parish "Blessed by Differences, Alive in Faith and Gifted for Service."

Over the next few months, the Pastoral Council will begin collecting
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Renovation set to begin in June

~ Mark Engen

It is an exciting time. Holy Cross parish will have a newly renovated lower level by the end of September. The Religious Education, Liturgy, Youth and Hispanic Ministry offices will be relocated in the south wing, along with the nursery which stays in its current location. Lickteig Hall will have a new, more spacious look and the surrounding classrooms will be updated, too. Larger, expandable classrooms will be built at the north end of the hall.

Even the first floor will see some changes. The bathrooms will be updated, a power assisted opener will be installed on the front doors, and the church's interior will benefit

from a few minor improvements.

Dunn Project Solutions, a division of J.E. Dunn Construction, will do the work. Kerry Reardon has been hired as Project Manager, giving him the responsibility for overseeing the construction on behalf of the parish. Mr. Reardon has held similar positions on other archdiocesan projects, including the Santa Marta retirement community. He will be accountable to the executive group of the Parish Renovation Committee, which will continue to regularly meet to track the work's progress. Fr. Mark, Joe Vyhanek, Ron Stallbaumer and I serve on this committee.

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Pastoral Reflection

~ Robert Bacic

I had dinner on the last Sunday night in April with nine people with whom I had a lot in common, and from whom I was very different. As we arrived, most of us met one another for the first time. We enjoyed a wonderful salad bar prepared by our hosts. The chocolate silk-peanut butter pie was a pretty big hit, too.

As each person formally introduced him/herself during dinner, everyone reflected on the question, “Are you a more religious or spiritual person? Why?” Several people shared a spiritual journey that no longer includes organized religion, while others of us spoke of a deep gratitude for religion’s gift of spirituality in our lives. Religion represented a source of deep shame and guilt for some, and a liberating and loving acceptance for others. Universally, we embraced spirituality as those enlivening encounters with the Sacred in our lives wherever and however we find them.

After dessert the conversation continued about our faith lives. We were Catholic, Unitarian, Baha’i, Jungian, Unity, Jewish and unaffiliated gathered around the dinner table. We shared stories of faith from our respective traditions and from our personal experience. We asked questions about one another’s beliefs and practices. We discovered that compassion, justice and service on behalf of the poor and marginalized served as a kind of cement that solidly connected us one to another. *Continued on Page 4*

Read any good books lately?

Each summer members of the parish staff recommend books that they have found spiritually uplifting. Here are this summer’s suggestions. Enjoy!

Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust

By Imaculée Ilibigiza with Steve Erwin

Hay House Publishing, 2007

Immaculée shares her miraculous story of how she survived during the Rwanda genocide in 1994. She shares with the reader how she embraced the power of prayer, learned the importance of forgiveness and experienced the meaning of unconditional love.

Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana, a Novel

By Ann Rice

Anchor Books, 2008

Ann Rice offers a great look into the milieu of first century Palestine, and wonderful insights into the person of Christ.

Intimacy with God: An Introduction to Centering Prayer

By Thomas Keating

Crossroads Publishing, 1996, 2009

Thomas Keating is a Cistercian monk and former abbot of St. Joseph

Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts, and is currently living at St. Benedict’s Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado. *Spiritual Book News* says this work is filled insight and practical advice on how centering prayer can deepen our intimacy with God.

The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life

By James Martin, S.J.

HarperOne, 2010

The author translates the insights of St. Ignatius Loyola for a modern audience and reveals how we can find God – and how God can find us – in the real world of work, love, suffering, decisions, prayer and friendship.

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

By the United States Bishops

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006

Not exactly a summer beach novel, but this summary of the Catholic faith is written in everyday language and can be read in short segments. It profiles the lives of saints and other holy persons in the history of our country, offers meditation and discussion questions for personal reflection as well as a wide variety of prayers and other resource information.



~ Photographs taken by Robert Bacic

Boxes, boxes everywhere! Anyone who has ever moved from one home to another appreciates the work that goes into packing. Now imagine packing up half the church after 42 years!

I Ride! You Ride! We Ride!

~ Christy L'Esperance

Each year, the small town of Sturgis, South Dakota is roused by the thunder and roar of thousands of motorcycle engines as bikers gather to ride and rally. Kansas City now has its own annual ride, thanks to Holy Cross parishioner, Mark Rainey. Instead of the cacophony of exhaust-spewing choppers, the approach of Rainey's bikers is more likely heard with a "Cheerio!" and the *zing zing* of bicycle bells. For the annual Tweed Ride, leather jackets and chaps are traded for tweed blazers and wool knickers, hardcore Harleys for sensible Schwinn's, and handlebar mustaches for – well, handlebar mustaches.

Mark Rainey and his brother run a business refinishing old bicycles.

Because the work of sandblasting and painting is dingy by nature, they call themselves the "Groody (GRO-dee) Brothers." While looking for photos to post on their business's Facebook page, Mark came across pictures of a "Tweed Ride" that had taken place in London. Eureka! He told his brother that this was the perfect event to organize to promote leisurely bicycling enthusiasm in Kansas City. The 1st Annual Kansas City Tweed Ride was conceived as quite the opposite of not only Sturgis, but also the typical lycra- and spandex-clad form of road bike racing. "It's where you put on your Sunday best and enjoy a casual ride with friends, followed by tea and biscuits," says Mark. "We thought twenty to forty people would sign up,

but then a local artist, Kevin Nierman, donated a painting to be raffled. The event grew to about 220 people indicating interest."

On the day of the event (April 3rd, 2010) about 150 riders, including over a dozen pedaling children, met in Loose Park and cycled through the nearby neighborhoods. The fun-loving spirit was contagious. Whitney Sweeney, a resident of the Loose Park area commented, "Pip, pip, it was a rather good show, everyone all cycled up and whatnot."

Prizes were awarded to participants competing for such distinctions as "Most Dashing and Debonair Male," "Most Flattering Female Finery," "Most Intriguing

Accessory Upon a Bicycle," and mustache contests in male *and* female categories. In addition, the event raised \$700 for the charity, Revolve, which gets kids safely onto bicycles for fitness.

Mark's interest in cycling started with fitness in mind. In early 2000, Mark chipped \$20 into a pot and entered a weight loss contest at work. "I thought that bicycling would be a good way for me to go. I lost twenty-three pounds, but didn't win the contest." But the biking became habit for Mike. He now commutes to work by bicycle three times a week and will join about 800 people in biking across Kansas this month.

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A Blessing for Fathers

We bless you and we praise you,
God of our fathers!
You are the God of Adam, father of the human family.
You are the God of Abraham, our father in faith who was ready and willing to give up everything to be faithful to you.
You are the God of Isaac, who was born of laughter and old age, and the God of Jacob, whose clever trick gained an inheritance for twelve tribes of sons and daughters.
You are the God of Jesse, from whose loins a nation sprang, a sturdy family tree of monarchs, prophets and priests.
You are the God and Father of Israel, your child whom you love with all your heart.
You are the God of Zechariah, who fathered the Baptist and taught him the Torah, and of Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus.
You are the God of Joseph, who loved and raised Jesus as his own.
You are the God and Father of Jesus, and our Father in heaven, too:
Holy is your Name!
We thank you, God, for the gift of our fathers, for grandfathers and godfathers and fathers-in-law, too.
Send your Holy Spirit upon our fathers, in whose laps we were cradled, on whose knees we were bounced, by whose hands we were fed,

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We Ride

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He's currently the Membership Chair of KanBikeWalk, which promotes safe biking and walking environments in Kansas. His wife, Theresa describes herself, good naturedly, as a bike widow. Mark says that "Biking is a little Church for me. I do a lot of praying on the road. I have the opportunity to focus on a topic and pray about it. I've said a few rosaries on those steep hills. Phillipians 4:13 comes to mind often: 'I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.' Being out in nature, I'm constantly reminded how great God is."

With the beautiful weather upon us, Mark's example may be just the inspiration we need to get out, get moving, and get praying. To join in on next year's ride, visit the Tweed Ride blog page at <http://kctweedindeed.wordpress.com> or join the Facebook page "Groody Bros. Bicycle Restoration Project." Then start growing out that mustache and shopping the thrift stores for wools, tweeds, silks, and argyles, keeping the ride's motto in mind: "Style over speed, elegance over exertion." Around Easter 2011, we'll be ready for the 2nd Annual Kansas City Tweed Ride.

Parish Renovation

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None of this would be possible without the generous support of parishioners who participated in our recent capital campaign. Thank you.

Please pray for the success of the renovation, the safety of the workers, and for patience during this time of inconvenience and mess. In a few months, it will all be worth it.

Father's Blessing

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instructed, at times corrected,
in whose company we learned to
work and play and pray,
at whose side we hear your word and
celebrate your mysteries.

Heal their pains and
disappointments.

Forgive all that needs to be forgiven.
Give to them the good that they have
given others.

Welcome into your arms
those who have died.

Fill this world, O God, with a
father's love!

We ask this your Son Jesus Christ,
who taught us to pray to you as
Abba.

He lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
who is Father of the poor,
one God forever and ever. Amen.

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Pastoral Council

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information about the parish's
sacramental life, Mass attendance,
finances, and buildings & grounds.
Members of the Council will also be
meeting with parish leaders inviting
them to assess the strengths and
areas for growth in their respective
ministries. They will also be
looking at trends going on in larger
civic community of Overland Park.

In a short amount of time a lot is
being accomplished. Holy Cross is
grateful to: Michelle Burkhart,
Ashton Conner, Lisa Hageman,
Mick Halter, Tonia Helm, Mary
Lambrechts, Ray Mersman, Dan
Moritz, Jean Murry, Jesús Salas,
Leticia Shaw and Graham Whitney.

Pastoral Reflection

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The two and a half hours that we
were together quickly reached its end.
Instead of leftovers we carried hope
and understanding home with us. The
theme, "Come as Strangers, Leave as
Friends," guided our time together
and, in fact, was realized in a small but
very concrete way. We all expressed
the desire to do it, again, in the not-to-
distant future.

The dinner that I attended was one
of 18 dinners going on across Kansas
City that same night. It was part of a
program called *Table Talk* put on by
the Greater Kansas City Interfaith
Council and Cultural Crossroads.
Often we hear the phrase
"interreligious dialogue" and may
wonder what it means. Well, truth be
told, it could mean a lot of different
things, but it definitely includes this
simple and nourishing meal that I was
privileged to enjoy. This
straightforward and structured
conversation created relationships that
did not exist, and brought about
understanding that transcended our
differences. We are indeed different
from each other, but with an awful lot
in common.

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