

Jewels of St. Julie

A Newsletter for the Parish Family of St. Julie Billiart
February 2014

Living the Eucharist®



I am so excited to announce that our parish will be participating in a Lenten spiritual renewal program called *Living the Eucharist*. This program will provide us with opportunities to grow in our faith through learning more about the Eucharist, participating more actively in Sunday Mass, and living the Eucharist each day as disciples of Jesus.

These are the dynamics:

Small Faith-Sharing Groups for Adults—meet weekly during Lent to learn more about the Eucharist, pray one of the upcoming Sunday Mass readings using lectio divina, strengthen your sense of community, and prepare to renew your baptismal promises at Easter.

Small Faith-Sharing Groups for Teens – Discipleship groups to engage and inspire high school students

Family Activities in the Home – stimulate children’s growth in faith and deepen family spirituality and participation in Mass.

Lenten Meditative Reading for Adults and Teens – helps parishioners prepare for Easter through daily reflections on the Mass and Scripture.

Bulletin Inserts – through weekly teachings, as well as Reflect, Act and Pray sections that foster personal spiritual growth.

The *Living the Eucharist Prayer Campaign* – Parishioners are given a prayer card and invited to pray this beautiful prayer for the New Evangelization.



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In October, the [St. Peter in Chains School] 7th grade students entered an All Saints' Day essay contest for Catholic schools in the Cincinnati area, sponsored by *Catholics United for the Poor*. The participants were required to write an essay about a saint that inspired them and how they would be serving today. The 7th graders worked hard in Religion class to research saints that inspired them and wrote their essays in language arts class. All of the students put a great amount of effort into their essays and represented St. Peter in Chains well. We are proud to say that one of the essays was chosen as a winning essay for the 7th grade category. Congratulations to **Florine Sanchez** and the outstanding and creative essay she wrote about St. Julie of Billiart!

Catholics United for the Poor Essay Contest: Saint Julie Billiart

First of all, I picked Saint Julie Billiart because I went to Saint Julie's school and Parish when I was younger. The school was in Hamilton, Ohio next to a Fire Station. I went there for kindergarten and first grade. It was the best

WELCOME TO THOSE RECENTLY BAPTIZED AT ST. JULIE BILLIART PARISH:



December 22 Jacquelyn Grace, child of Jeff Van Vranken & Jodi Jacquemin Van Vranken

December 28 Elijah John, child of Timothy Nieman and Shannon Kuhl Nieman

Mark Edward, child of Kevin Hartman and Monica Hurtubise Hartman

Support St. Peter School Girl Scouts! It is Girl Scout Cookie time!

Thin Mints, Do-Si-Dos (peanut butter sandwich), Savannah Smiles (lemon), Samoas (caramel and coconut), Tagalongs (chocolate covered peanut butter), and Trefoils (shortbread). The cookies cost \$4.00 per box and payment is due upon delivery. Orders must be placed by March 26, 2014. To place an order or if you have questions, please call or e-mail Jenni Craft at (513) 518-3574 or jennicraft@hotmail.com or Lisa Pollard at (513) 307-8141 or Lisa.pollard@svn.com.



St. Vincent DePaul Reports

During the month of December 2013 the St. Julie Billiart Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has expended funds in the amount of \$ 1,979.13 in the following categories:

Utility Assistance:	\$ 734.08 (4)
Overhead:	\$ 63.80 (3)
Rental Assistance:	\$ 850.00 (3)
Fees:	\$ 32.00 (2)
International Twinning:	\$ 300.00 (1)

Total Income for the month was \$ 3,310.00

In addition the members of the St. Julie Billiart Conference have donated 72 hours, driven 491 miles, made 4 house visits and 4 eldercare visits. We had 72 telephone calls seeking assistance involving 155 people. We made 33 prison visits. Telephone contact was made with 6 sick members of the parish. A total of 394 people were served by our members.



Respectfully
submitted,
Jack Weisenberger,
Treasurer

Council, Cont. from Back Page

Parish Mission Statement. I was a St. Julie's parishioner for ten years, avoiding becoming an active member, beyond attending Sunday Mass. I had been very active in my two previous parishes and was on volunteer burn out trying to lay low. After serving on St. Julie's Parish Pastoral Council, I realize that it has allowed me to feel much more connected to St. Julie's parish family. I have become more active in other areas of the parish and have had the opportunity to meet members of our parish that I may never have met. Most importantly, I have had the opportunity to use my God given gifts and talents, hopefully, pleasing God along the way!

From Fr. Mike: The three parishes of the Pastoral Region are now finally getting more serious about planning for 2017 when there will be just one priest for the Region. I imagine the work might include:

- Scheduling no more than four weekend Masses between the three parishes.
- Sharing professional staff
- Maintaining parish identity while developing the sense of "Catholic Hamilton"

Current members of Council and I are looking for a few new members who can contribute to this planning. **If you are interested, contact a member of the PPC or me.**

St. Julie Billiart Essay, Continued from page 1

school in the world! The teachers were amazing and everybody treated you like family, which we practically were. The principal who was Mr. Schweinefuss was just amazing; when I walked through the door he would greet me with his beautiful smile and a huge hug!

I want to honor this amazing school by picking the Saint that my former school and parish were named after, St. Julie Billiart. I now attend St. Peter in Chains School also found in Hamilton. St. Peter's welcomed me in with a huge heart like St. Julie's. What used to seem like a big mystery is now my home away from home! My class welcomed all of us in just as well as if we'd gone there our whole lives. I now have amazing friends whom I look forward to seeing every single day.

Saint Julie's Feast Day is on April 8. She was born in 1751 in France and died in 1816 in Belgium. When she was a child she loved to play school, but when she was 16, she actually started teaching to support her family. She told biblical parables to the workers at noon. Julie kept carrying out this mission of teaching throughout her life; the congregation she founded now continues her work. She was the 5th of 7 children. She attended a small one room school in Cuvilly, France. She enjoyed all her studies, but her religion classes attracted her the most. The priest who taught this class saw something special in Julie and allowed her to have her First Communion at age 9, when the normal age at that time was age 13. She learned to develop a great love for Jesus in the Eucharist. Julie's nervous system was badly shocked due to a murder attempt on her father. A long period of 30 years followed Julie with extremely bad health. Twenty-two of those 30 years, she was completely paralyzed. Yet all her suffering and pain, she offered up to God.

She offered her home as a hiding place for loyal priests when the French Revolution occurred. Because of this generous act she was a hunted prey. In 3 years of time, she had to flee the places her friends were hiding her five times. Then, at this time she was privileged to receive a vision. Julie saw her crucified Lord surrounded by a group of women dressed in a habit, something she had never seen before. An inner voice told her that

these would be her daughters and that she would begin an institute for the Christian education of young girls. Later on, she and a rich young woman founded the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

In 1804, after a year of starting her religious life she was miraculously cured of her illness and walked for the first time in 22 years. She is a woman of real courage and who always kept hope in her good God. My Saint inspires me through her action of great desire to make known the goodness of God. After all, actions do speak louder than words. I don't know if I could've gone through 22 years of being paralyzed and still be thanking God every single day and not be angry or disappointed with Him. She inspires me especially with how she started this school for young girls, so that other young girls just like me can get an education. People in our world today are following her actions and starting schools like that in Africa and other countries. She is a true role model to look after. Imagine knowing that you were a prey in World War 1, and still protecting all these other people and not thinking about yourself. For me that's being a true Catholic, don't you?

If she were still alive today, she would still be animated by that great desire to help others and to continue her work through her inner life of union with God. She would be a very modest role model to look up to. She would open more and more schools for young girls across the world and donate the small things that matter most that we don't usually think about. The small things like clothing, food, and shelter just to give you a few. These things might not seem that huge to us, but to someone who doesn't have them, it means the world to them. These small acts that Julie did helped them to regain their dignity. Yet Julie still did more than she needed too. She gave something we might not realize we need, but when you don't receive it there is emptiness inside. That wonderful gift is unconditional love. If she were still on earth, I would want to meet her and thank her for all the wonderful examples she has set for me and others of how to live and manage our lives with that unshakeable confidence in the Lord. After all, "How good is the good God?"

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

When you make your pledge to the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA), you keep Christ at the center by putting into motion a whirlwind of outreach and good works done every day — *in your name*.



ALTAR ROSARY NEWS

The Altar Rosary Society wishes everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

The next meeting will be held **February 3, 2013**. The luncheon will begin at 12:45 following the noon Mass and will be held in St. Mary's Hall (aka the Rathskellar). Please plan to attend and bring a friend. If you have never been to a meeting, we invite you to come join us to see if Altar rosary is a way you would like to give service to the parish.

We hope you have time to review the membership form that came out in the December Newsletter. Consider becoming a member. Thank you to all who have supported Altar Rosary. For information, please contact Marilyn Vidourek at 894-5851 or at mrv1130@yahoo.com

Living the Eucharist, Continued from Page 1

Here's what a few participants had to say about their experience:

"My small group experience was awesome! I have and continue to feel the awesome presence of Christ in my heart and soul." (PARISHIONER, YOUNGSTOWN, OH)

"Being able to talk about the Eucharist, religion and spirituality with people my own age was new and exciting for me. I think more people in their 20s and 30s should have or make opportunities to talk openly about God and religion in small groups." (PARISHIONER, CHICAGO, IL)

"Our parish had the highest number of participants of any program offered by the parish in recent history." (TEAM COORDINATOR, MONROE, LA)

"Using the Family Activity Booklet in our home really helped us connect with the Sunday Mass." (PARISHIONERS, TOWNSEND, TN)

"I found new meaning in the beauty of our Mass and its symbols. I love being Catholic." (PARISHIONER, ROUND LAKE, NY)

WE WILL BE INVITING YOU ALL TO SIGN UP SOON! PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING A SMALL GROUP, A TEEN GROUP, OR PARTICIPATING WITH YOUR FAMILY. WE WILL ALSO BE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD SMALL GROUPS, SO IF THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MAY INTEREST YOU, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME AT 513-863-1040 OR TURCIA@STJULIE.NET

PRAYING FOR THE PARISH AND ITS MEMBERS:

YOUR UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO PARISH LIFE? A parish really is like a body with many different members, each with its own contribution. There are countless ways a person can be involved: work with St. Vincent de Paul, be a catechist, work with the Heavenly Kitchen, put together mailings etc., etc. But what of those parishioners who, for whatever reason, are not able to participate in any of those myriad of things? What can they do?

They can pray. A number of years ago Sr. André recognized that contribution and formed the "Ministers of Praise". In essence they are people who pray not only for specific people but for "big picture" things. Since we have this newsletter we really do not need to mail intentions out to people. They can just look at the space below that will appear every month.

This active participation is recognized by the Universal Church as the *Apostleship of Prayer*. It actually dates back to France in 1844. At that time Fr. Francis Xavier Gautrelet told a group of Jesuit seminarians who were eager to work on the missions: "Be apostles now, apostles of prayer! Offer everything you are doing each day in union with the Heart of our Lord for what He wishes, the spread of the Kingdom for the salvation of souls."

• The Pope's special prayer intentions for February are:

Universal: That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people.

For Evangelization: That priests, religious, and lay people may work together with generosity for evangelization.

Each month we will also ask participants to pray for a special thing for our Parish and/or our local community. In February and March we are asking participants to pray for the success of our Lenten program **Living the Eucharist**. Every month we will inform participants of these prayer intentions. Anyone can participate. If you'd like to let us know of your participation, we'll be happy to count you among the "Ministers of Praise".

- Tami

Calendar of Intentions

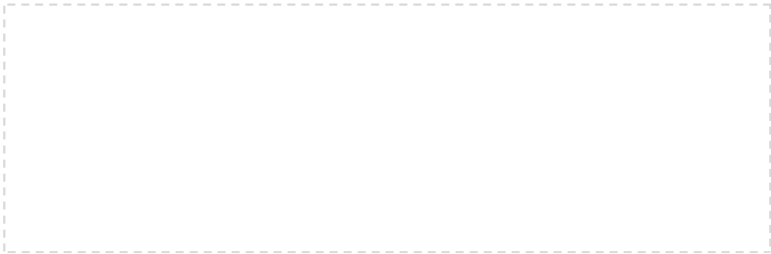
Ministry List

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A PRAYER FOR THE 2014



Heavenly Father,
Help us to realize the overwhelming needs of
others right here in our communities:
those who need food, education, companionship,
those who need support, comfort,
and most of all, those who need
to hear the good news of salvation that
your Son, Jesus Christ, made possible.

Open our hearts to the realization that we
should share the blessings You have given us,
by seeing that others receive food, clothing, protection
help...and the Sacraments.

Bless our efforts as we work together
with our brothers and sisters in the parishes throughout
our Archdiocese to provide support to so many people
through the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

We make our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
and with the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

Amen

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



ST. JULIE BILLIART PARISH **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

From Stephanie Roberts: As a member of St. Julie's Parish Pastoral Council, it is my responsibility to use my God given gifts and talents, working along with the pastor and other members of the council, to vision, plan, empower, and evaluate the parish's programs and initiatives in light of our parish mission. While serving on St Julie's Parish Pastoral Council, it is *important* to seek God's will through prayer and to lead through group consensus, working toward a common goal of fulfilling our