

REFLECTIONS

JULY 2007

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

930 ASHLAND TERRACE, CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Four Men From St. Jude Ordained Deacons



Gaspar DeGaetano, Brian Gabor, Tom McConnell and Paul Nelson from St. Jude Parish were among the twenty-eight men ordained deacons on Saturday, June 9 at All Saints Church in Knoxville by Bishop Joseph Kurtz. Their wives, Barbara DeGaetano, Donna Gabor, Brenda McConnell, and Shirley Nelson, along with a clergy member were invited to vest them in diaconal garments. It was a beautiful ceremony and a glorious event for the Diocese of Knoxville. The following assignments were made by Bishop Kurtz for the four deacons that come from St. Jude: Deacon Brian will serve in hospital ministry and liturgically at St. Jude, Deacon Gaspar will serve at St. Jude, Deacon Tom will serve in prison ministry and liturgically at St. Jude. Deacon Paul will serve at Holy Spirit in Soddy-Daisy. (Photos by Deacon Patrick Murphy-Racey)

God's Great Bible Reef—VBS 2007

Approximately 110 parish children dove in and spent the week of June 18 exploring God's Great Bible Reef. Theresa Reddick and her family transforming the Family Life Center into an underwater adventure of boats and sea creatures of all sorts spent many hours.

Opening day began with Traci Behlau and Stephanie Eberle greeting children as they eagerly entered the great underwater world and gathered together in the gym with their teachers and classmates. With much zeal, David Lowrance gathered all the classes around him each morning and began the Opening Celebration. This was a time of prayer, music (led by Candace Wolfe), and an introduction to the Bible story of the day.

After the Opening Celebration, classes were off to rotate to a variety of fun, yet faith-filled, activities. These included Bible time, crafts, science experiments, games, storytelling, music, and snacks.

Bible time proved to be a special occasion for the teachers and their classes as they watched and discussed a DVD of the daily Bible story. Classroom teachers were Preschool: Lowry, Ashley, and Carolynn Thielges; Kindergarten: Bethany Derbyshire and Todd Zinkann; Grade 1: Theresa Leutz and Anne Laurell; Grade 2: Karen and Alyssa Griffiths; Grade 3: Lyn Price and Stephanie Sumida; Grade 4/5: Tammy and Sophia Zinkann.

Creativity filled the room as crafts were assembled. Led by Anna Partridge and her sister Lisa Wright, children made Jordan River Jars to tie in with the story of Namaan. They also had the opportunity to make clay votive cups, picture frames with sea shells containing each child's picture, and tapa cloth.

Science experiments, led by Laura Eye and Jennifer Florio, were a great hit. Excitement filled the room as children participated in a daily experiment. They were reminded of the Apostles' empty fishing nets after many hours of fishing and what happens when Jesus' advice is followed. This was demonstrated through a bottle, balloon, vinegar, and some baking soda, which had amazing results! Children also made coral reef early in the week and were able to watch it grow as each day passed.

Games – led by Laura Gajewski, Rachel Turl, Seamus Finnegan, and Brandon Hall – were fun for sure, but were also designed to be faith-based. Children enjoyed relays, bowling, and wrapping each other as mummies. They also took turns walking towards Jesus on a balance beam, as a reminder to keep their eyes on Jesus, especially in times of trouble.

David Lowrance, master storyteller, allowed the children's imaginations to come alive as they took on various Bible characters and relived the events of Biblical times, such as finding Moses in the Nile, Naaman, the miraculous catch of fish, and the blind man.

With toe-tapping enthusiasm, Candace Wolfe had the children singing joyously about God's great love for all of us. Through music, the children sang about trusting God, following his Word, and caring for others.

The day would not have been complete without all the children joining together for a special snack. Maria Lowrance and Jean Botto, with the help of many parent volunteers, lovingly prepared, served, and cleaned up, allowing the children to come together as a large family to share in food and fellowship.

Each day ended with the children gathering together once again for a Closing Celebration led by David and Candace. This was a time to reflect on all that was learned throughout the day and to sing once again about God's great love for us.

The last day was special indeed. Families were invited to the Closing Celebration to hear the special songs that the children had been learning and to see firsthand the joy and excitement that was part of the entire week. Everyone shared in a picnic afterward before saying farewell to the many friends made during the week. Each child left knowing that God's Bible Reef is Great indeed.



RCIA Summer Inquiry Sessions

This summer, the RCIA series of inquiry sessions that started in February continues with sessions scheduled for July 10, July 24 and August 7 at 7:00 pm in the Parish life Center Library. Deacon Brian Gabor is the leader for these sessions. Please pray for the following who have already participated or who registered for these sessions: Brian Konwaler, James Meller, Jeff Carter, Jonathan Smith, Ginger Docherty, Karen Archer, Harold Bates, Jr. April Lyon, Stephen Tsui, Kellyh and James Whiteside, Justin Durando, Justin Bratcher, Stephen and Ginger Short, Rick Pursley, Stacey Forester, Derek Spraker and Steve Ray.

Any non-Catholic interested in learning more about the Catholic faith should contact Deacon Gaspar De-Gaetano at 870-2386.

St. Jude School Year Concludes with Many Activities

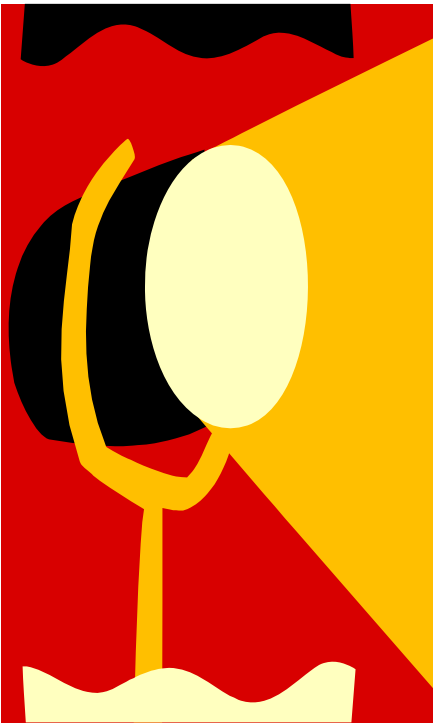


Winners of the "Principal for a Day" auction at Moonlight Escape, the Bombassi children, Nic, Zac and Bella, kept St. Jude School in good hands as they managed their special day!

Eighth Grade students traveled to OLPH to meet with their fellow graduating students and to participate in Field Day events organized by the PE departments at both schools.



Limited spaces are still available in some grades for the 2007-2008 school year. The St. Jude School Admissions Office can be reached at 877-6022.



Spotlight on Stewardship in action

Fitness Course Clean-up Project.

When you drive into the entrance of St. Jude, I am sure at one time or another you have noticed the fitness course to the right as you are coming in. It was originally an idea of one of our past Physical Education Teachers, Denise Murphy. It was to be a place where kids could have fun and get exercise at the same time during their P.E. classes.

The project came to fruition with funds from one of our golf tournaments and some private contributions. The design, layout, and construction were done as part of an Eagle Scout Project by Sean Kedrowski approximately seven years ago.

Over the years the area would become overgrown with weeds, get cleaned up, and then become overgrown again. Recently a new parishioner to St. Jude, who had just been given his briefing on sharing his time, talent and treasure, noticed the overgrown fitness area and offered to take it on as a project and keep it nice. He pulled together a small crew and over a few weeks, in his spare time, he managed to get rid of all the weeds and re-mulch the entire area.

It now looks fantastic and is ready to use. It truly is a great place for kids to get a little work-out and have fun at the same time. Please feel free to take your kids over and use the area, but adult supervision is required.

A very special "Thanks" to Mike Siener for performing this project and to his family for letting him be away from home helping out down at the church. Mike is a true steward in action.

PARISH EXPENSES

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>May 1-31</u>	<u>SINCE 7/1/2006</u>
1 Office Staff Salries/Benefits*	\$ 23,221.47	\$ 263,630.71
2 School Staff Salries/Benefits*	\$ 130,892.05	\$ 1,452,777.28
3 Pastoral/Administrative	\$ 12,113.22	\$ 155,199.39
4 NDHS Assessment	\$ 9,045.00	\$ 81,405.00
5 Liturgy	\$ 3950.18	\$ 29,155.80
6 Parish Religious Education	\$ 489.72	\$ 3933.18
7 RCIA	\$ 143.99	\$ 1,349.35
8 Youth	\$ 252.17	\$ 5,580.10
9 Family	\$ 510.84	\$ 2,121.80
10 Parish Charity	\$ 950.00	\$ 12,891.94
11 Plant and Parish Operation and Maintenance	\$ 5,095.50	\$ 68,920.87
12 Major Repairs	\$ -	\$ -
13 School - K-8 including Operation and maintenance	\$ 18,085.85	\$ 198,831.01
14 Preschool	\$ 149.87	\$ 2,394.51
15 After School care	<u>\$ 966.70</u>	<u>\$ 6,252.04</u>
TOTALS	\$ 204,866.56	\$ 2,284,442.98

LOAN ON FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Beginning Loan	Balance to date
\$ 1,220,392.35	\$ 1,205,878.37

* Includes salaries, FICA, retirement and insurance

PARISH INCOME

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>May 1-31</u>	<u>SINCE 7/1/2006</u>
1 Parishioner's Envelopes	\$ 148,625.40	\$ 1,702,943.52
1a 1/2 Christmas	—	8,463.98
2 Loose Contributions	\$ 2,996.86	\$ 43,284.30
3 Children's Envelopes	\$ 18.90	\$ 208.65
4 Holy Day Collections	\$ 490.00	\$ 15,022.69
5 Other Revenues *	\$ 10,720.61	\$ 43,637.39
6 Parish Religious Education	\$ 390.00	\$ 3,406.95
7 School Tuition/Subsidies	\$ 21,833.50	\$ 374,463.55
8 After School Care	\$ 7,992.50	\$ 59,216.75
9 Partners in Faith	\$ -	\$ -
10 G.I.F.T. Subsidy (Annual)	\$ -	\$ 27,587.00
Total	\$ 193,067.77	\$ 2,278,234.78
INCOME TOTALS	\$ 193,067.77	\$ 2,278,234.78
EXPENSE TOTALS	\$ 204,866.56	\$ 2,284,442.98
	\$ (11,798.97)	\$ (6,208.20)

Second Collections/ASA/G.I.F.T. Campaign/Building Fund

	<u>Month to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
11 Second Collections	\$ 9,504.51	\$ 51,948.88
12 ASA **	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 49,356.36
13 G.I.F.T. Campaign ***	\$ -	\$ 54,697.75
14 Building Fund Receipts	\$ 16,768.48	\$ 152,402.53

* Includes Memorials, Stipends, Stole Fees, Sacramental Contributions, Candles, Religious Articles, Rental, Interest on Checking/Savings Accounts

** Included in offertory as of 1-1-07

*** Ended 3-31-07

May 2007 Parish Income and Expense Statement Explained

May Finances

The May report reflects an approximate \$64,000.00 decrease in income from the April Statement. This decrease in income was anticipated for May due to the awesome response we had in April with parishioners catching up and keeping their promised pledges current after the first quarter statements were sent out. In my previous report for April, I showed a balance of \$2,873.39 to the negative, but the report should have actually shown a balance of \$5,590.59 to the positive. I had inadvertently omitted the income line showing the Christmas special collection of which we share 50% with the diocese. The St. Jude Portions of the Christmas special collection was \$8,463.98 and thus we actually had a positive balance of \$5,590.59 at the end of April.

Expenses exceed income slightly in May

We have closed the books for May and our year-to-date expenses are higher than our year-to-date income by \$6,208.20. When you consider the size of our budget at St. Jude, this figure is not something we can't overcome by the closing of the books for June. We remain hopeful we will end our 2006-07 fiscal year on a positive note.

Really good news as we end this year and look to the next

I would like to remind everyone that with your generosity in giving, we have managed to get through eleven months of this fiscal year without using any of the \$140,000.00 budgeted from the Parish Loan. The Parish Council and Finance Board members have worked very hard for many weeks and several meetings to prepare a conservative and balanced budget for next year. The best news on the upcoming 2007-08 budget is that no revenues are budgeted from the Parish Loan. Overall at this point we are breaking even, but we are very encouraged and look toward exciting times ahead.

St. Jude Staff conserving everywhere possible

The staff at St. Jude has worked very hard in an effort to reduce expenses around the parish. They have been very conservative with their budgets; they have turned off lights, reprogrammed air conditioning systems, turned off boilers earlier than in the past and used volunteers for everything from painting to landscaping. This has helped a lot but has not been enough to get ahead of just breaking even. We have a large campus with many activities happening all the time and it takes a lot of time, talent, and treasure to keep it all going.

A special invitation

Families continue to join our parish but families are also leaving our parish at a similar rate. This has kept our parish membership from really growing. St. Jude truly needs all of our Catholic families to be active in their parish so that we can be successful with our ministries, our school, and in helping our surrounding community. We have approximately 300 Catholic families on our rolls that are not actively involved in the church. We want to invite and welcome all of our families who have been away from the church to come and be a part of your St. Jude parish again. We have the potential to do great things here, but it's going to take all of the St. Jude family to do it.

Tom Picard, Parish Manager

Bishop Kurtz Appointed

Bishop Kurtz receives his pallium on June 29th from Pope Benedict XVI. The pallium is a sign of an archbishop's unity with the Pope and of his authority within his province.



On June 6, 2007 the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI appointed our Bishop as the new Archbishop of Louisville, KY. Bishop Kurtz, the second bishop of the Diocese of Knoxville, has been the shepherd of our diocese since 1999. He will surely be missed. It is definitely the consensus of all that Bishop Kurtz has left a positive imprint on this diocese and his presence will surely be felt for years to come.

One way to look at this situation is that while it is our loss, it is also the Archdiocese of Louisville's gain. Bishop Kurtz had this to say in a letter he wrote to his fellow priests, "When Archbishop Sambini told me of the wish of our Holy Father, I agreed because of my trust in the grace of Jesus Christ and in the Providential Plan of God, which makes me open and even eager to take on this new responsibility."

We too must trust in God's plan for us. Let us offer our prayers for Archbishop Kurtz that he may be guided by God's hand in his new assignment. He will begin his duty on August 15th with the Mass of Installation being held at 2:30 p.m. in Louisville at the 'Louisville Gardens'. All are invited to attend this celebration. After his installation the Diocese of Knoxville will become what is known as a 'vacant see' while we await our new bishop. The Diocesan College of Consultors will in the meantime elect a Diocesan Administrator to govern the diocese until Bishop Kurtz's successor is named. Let us pray that our next bishop may be united to the model of Jesus the Good Shepherd as much as Archbishop Kurtz is.

St. Jude Church
930 Ashland Terrace
Chattanooga, TN 37415
(423) 870-2386

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Sat 5:30 pm
Sun 8:00 am, 10:30 am,
12:15pm, 5:30 pm

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Mon-Sat 8:15 am
Wed and First Fri 7:00 pm

RCIA INQUIRY CLASSES are offered for anyone who is interested in learning what the Catholic faith is all about. Please contact the parish office for more information.

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