



Volume 1, Issue 2

The Community of Blessed Community

Lenten Season 2011

Upcoming Events

- March 9: Ash Wednesday
- March 11: Friday Stations of the Cross Begin 5:00 PM
- March 21: Monday Lenten Programs Begin (Eucharist)
- March 27: Agnes Dei @ Blessed Sacrament 3:00 PM
- April 17: Palm Sunday & Communal Penance @ St. Pat's 4:00 PM
- April 21: Holy Thursday 7:00 PM
- April 22: Good Friday @ 6:00 PM
- April 23: Easter Vigil 8:00 PM
- April 24: Easter Masses 8:30, & 10:30 AM
- April 30/May 1: First Communion at All Masses
- May 7/8: Pastoral Elections
- May 11: Living Rosary 9:30 AM
- June 13-16: Vacation Bible School

Inside this issue:

Youth Formation	2
Daily Disciples:	3
Lenten Reflections	3
Untying Life's Knots	4
Q & A	4

SCRIP News

Please buy and use SCRIP.
New SCRIP Partners are:

- HyVee
-

The Future Church in Waterloo

Many of us can remember the days when there were seven vital and active parishes in Waterloo; now there are four. Times have changed to say the least, and all of us know that more changes will come our way in the days ahead. In order to be proactive about the future church in Waterloo, an organization has formed called the Waterloo Pastoral Leaders (WPL). The group consists of the pastors, pastoral associates and the Parish Faith Formation Leaders, Directors of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry. In recent months the representatives from St. Patrick in Cedar Falls have also joined in the discussion.

In the three years that

WPL has met, two issues have surfaced over and over again; the need for a collaborative approach among the parishes and the hunger for good liturgy and preaching. To address the first issue the parishes have grown into a more collaborative approach to ministry; sharing the responsibility for the church's mission, knowing that we can offer more, offer better, and offer essential ministries that would not be possible on a stand alone approach. For example the Cedar Valley Catholic Schools, the office of adult faith formation and the high school and middle school youth formation ministries, are all stronger because of our ability to work



Fr. Dennis Juhl, Pastor

together. One of the most obvious examples of our collaborative efforts is the establishment of the Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation Commission. Unlike most parishes in the Archdiocese who each have their own faith formation commission here in Waterloo we have one commission that serves all our parishes. This is our path to the future; we are stronger and more successful in building the Kingdom of God when we work together.

Another issue that has become clear is the hunger of our parishioners for creative liturgy and good preaching. To

(Continued: Top page 2)

The Future Church: continued

address this hunger WPL has entered into an exciting endeavor called "Come to the Table." From now until Advent when the New Roman Missal will take effect we will

work at enhancing our understanding of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Catholic worship and tradition. National speakers, workshops for liturgical ministers, Lenten evenings of study about

the mass, music ministry events, and many more activities are being planned. It is going to be an awesome time of renewal for the Catholic community of Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

Youth Formation

Our faith community of Blessed Sacrament comprises a wide cross section of neighborhood. Within our parish, we have households with 23 different zip codes. It is a great gift and yet a challenge. It is through weekly worship and community building activities that we get to know one another!

Young families with school-aged children also face this same phenomenon. In our Wednesday night Catholic formation program (*Forward In Faith*) for children in Kindergarten through 8th grade, we have families living in 7 different school districts with children attending 17 different schools! Kids in each grade level may not be attending the same school as their friend in FIF class, nor do they all attend the same weekend Mass, so it is important that we build community and friendships. Our Gospel value for this year is *Community*. The catechists and formation leaders are intentional about building community and forming relationship when we gather together.

Planning is underway for two

summer programs that will help us identify one another as well as other Catholics in the metro area. We will be offering Vacation Bible School (VBS) *Pandamania*, Monday-Thursday, June 13-16 from 9am-noon at Blessed Sacrament. Children from Queen of Peace, Sacred Heart and St. Edward will be joining us as we each discover that *God is Wild About You!* Watch for registration information.

A NEW offering will be *Summer Religious Education*. A few months ago we asked parents of school aged children via a written/phone survey to learn how we could best meet the needs of families. We are mindful that family life is continuing to evolve with many activities, events, and

work schedules, etc. by *both* parents and children. We learned as a result of the survey that a 2-week summer RE program is of interest for some families. This will also be a collaborative program with the Waterloo parishes. The two-week Summer RE will be held Monday-Friday, June 20-24, and Monday-Thursday, June 27-30, 2011 from 9am-noon at St. Edward School. Registrations will be available soon. Perhaps this offering will better fit your family's needs than traditional Wednesday evenings.

To learn more about formation opportunities for you or youth, contact Barb Duggan, Director of Faith Formation at 235-9430. **(Barb Duggan, DFF)**



These photos are from our FIF Community Building Night



Daily Disciples: Jack and Peg Eherenman

Today we feature two disciples in our community. Jack and Peggy Eherenman. Most of us recognize Jack as one of the men who cantors for us at Sunday masses and sings with the newly formed *Agnus Dei* group. However, Jack and Peggy's lives go much deeper than music.

Jack and Peggy were married in 1972 and eventually settled in Waterloo. They are the parents of four boys: Brandon, Michael, Ryan and Sean. Ryan, with autism and multiple other disabilities, now lives at Harmony House. Sean has spina bifida and cognitive concerns and lives at home.

When their children were young, there was little public understanding of children like Ryan or Sean.

Lenten Reflections

Lent is a great time to step back and re-evaluate. We all get so busy with our daily lives that we don't always tend to our spiritual lives as we should. Loosen up and untie the knots that are holding you back. Use this Lent as a time to refocus and reinvigorate through the three Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Consider your prayer life- How

There were few, if any, support services for either son. Instead of tearing the family apart, the difficulties brought them closer together, treasuring and enjoying their special family. Peggy said they "wanted to be drawn closer to God and to each other because of their kids!" Because of the challenges in raising their own children, they recognized the needs of others in the community who had kids with disabilities. Where there were no services, they worked to provide them for their own sons and others. They started education programs, found funding, serve on boards, planning committees, and formed organizations to meet the needs. They became the voice for many, advocating for inclusion of individuals with disabilities in schools, residential neighborhoods, faith formation opportunities and other aspects of life that we take for granted.

Peggy's activities include vol-

unteering for *The Arc of Cedar Valley*, for many years and serving as Director for 9 years; catalyst for the development of respite services and the first group home for youth with intellectual disabilities in Black Hawk County; served on area school boards and parish councils and is a National Certified Guardian with Permanent Planning, Inc, a non-profit organization that provides guardianship services for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Jack built adapted furniture for River Hills School and the old Black Hawk County Health Care Center and collaborated with a professor at UNI to form *UNI Sports Camp* sponsored by the YMCA, for special needs children across the nation.

Their lives give testimony to Faith, Commitment, Love and Service. We here at Blessed Sacrament are blessed to have them in our midst!

(Deacon John and Sharon Herman)

do you talk to and listen to God? Do you find time to pray daily? Fasting isn't always about food. What things in your life can you do without during Lent: no cussing, no gossiping, no caffeine? Try to fast from the bad and replace it with something good for you, such as cut out an hour of TV and replace it with time to read or play a game with your family. We will have

the old oaken bucket on the altar during Lent. Fr. Denny will invite us to bring our contributions up during mass each week. Our almsgiving will be divided between the Hospitality House and the Blessed Sacrament Community debt.

Keep your knotted rope with you during Lent as a reminder to Pray, Fast and Give Alms.

(Lori Zabler, Faith Formation Assistant)

THE COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

650 Stephan Avenue
Waterloo, Iowa 50701

Rectory Phone 319-233-6179
FAX 319-233-0511
School Phone 319-233-7863
Day Care Phone 319-236-6131

Reconciliation: 3:30 PM Saturday or by appointment
Masses 4:30 PM Saturday
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Sunday
8:00 AM Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:30 AM Wednesday during school

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1870
Waterloo, Iowa

We're on the Web!

blessedsacramentwaterloo.org

Untying Life's Knots

Our Lenten journey will take the focus of Untying Life's Knots. One of the greatest abilities God has granted mothers is the ability to loosen knots, especially in shoelaces. However, each of us has encountered a time that we've had a knot that we could not unravel.

In the same way, no one but Jesus has insight into the knots we sometimes make of our lives. Jesus can help us untangle even

the most stubborn of messes—if we let him.

Permitting Jesus to un-knot our lives is usually not quick, easy, or painless. Sometimes Jesus needs to perform some painful spiritual surgery.

Lent prepares us to look at many of life's knots: unhealthy relationships, self-defeating behaviors, feelings of inferiority, damaging habits, and poor choices.

Your heart may be knotted with disappointment, anger, resentment, failure, loneliness, or dismay due to your present situation. Whatever your knots are, take them to Jesus. Use these Lenten days for reflection so that you will feel refreshed, reshaped, renewed, and untangled for Easter's arrival.

(Barb Duggan, DFF)

Q & A *“Why do you have to go to Reconciliation/Confession? Doesn't God already know everything we do and forgive us for our dissections?”*

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was established to give us the chance to have a right relationship with God when we sin. Confession is an expression of God's love for us because He knows what is in our hearts and our need to confess. God wants us to be part of the community of believers. Our priests are our spiritual fathers and have the

authority to administer His forgiveness so that we can be in full communion with the community of believers. Jesus often taught about forgiveness and healing; asking for forgiveness is often a humbling experience. Humility is the first step to true repentance. Also, the priest can help us be objective about our sins and to develop a plan to

avoid future sin. Through Reconciliation we come to know God's mercy and love for us.

Reconciliation is available Saturday afternoons at Blessed Sacrament at 3:30 PM. A Communal Reconciliation, will be held at St. Pat's Church, Cedar Falls, on April 17 at 4:00 PM.

(Lori Zabler, Faith Formation Assistant)