

# BART'S HERALD

Saint Bartholomew Church 45 Ludlow Road, Manchester, CT 06040

Fall 2007

## RECEIVING COMMUNION

### *The Dos And The Don'ts*

By Henry Poirier



Holy Communion is our most frequently received sacrament. But, over time, we may come to treat it with familiarity and lose the reverence we should show this truly awesome event - the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ as we were commanded at the Last Supper.

Over the centuries, the Church has maintained a protocol so that we can avoid slipping into diverse and inconsistent habits. The official church document, *The General Instruction Of The Roman Missal*, instructs us in what is appropriate and what is not! Receiving Communion starts with the fast, which begins one hour before the actual receiving, not one hour before the beginning of Mass. Being mindful of the meaning and intent of the fast is more important than a precise calculation of an hour. There is no one watching with a stopwatch in hand! Plain water never breaks the fast, nor do medications that are time sensitive. The rules also allow for practical exceptions. For example, the sick - whether in a health care facility or at home - may receive whenever the server - be it a priest, deacon, or eucharistic minister - arrives.

As we approach the server at Mass, we bow in reverence. The bow need not be profound, but something more than just a nod, nor do we make the sign of the cross. We receive standing up, but we do not genuflect before, during, or after receiving Communion. After the server says, "The Body of Christ", the only reply - according to the *General Instructions* - is "Amen". We receive in the hand. According to Pope Cyril of Jerusalem (fifth century), we "make a throne for the King" by placing one cupped hand within the other. We then step aside, place the Host in our mouth, and process back to the pew. Receiving the Blood of Christ is the same as respects the bow and "Amen". What happens if the Host is dropped or the Blood is spilled? We do nothing unless requested to do so by the server. It's also appreciated that parents receiving Communion, who have children of First Communion age with them, signal the server whether or not the child will be receiving Communion.

Proper dress to receive the Body and Blood of Christ is always of concern, especially with ever changing weather and the trend to casual clothing. Determining what is proper comes down to a matter of reverence. As we make a throne for our King with our hands to receive the Host, in like manner we should dress appropriately in His presence. Father Tom Sievel says, "If you were visiting royalty, would you wear a bathing

## PASTOR'S CORNER

By Father Tom Sievel

Autumn is here and with this season of new energy and new beginnings we enter into our Jubilee Year. We began the celebration of our Fiftieth Anniversary as a parish on September 9, at our parish picnic. Look for a listing of many special events during this Jubilee Year both in *Bart's Herald* and in the weekly parish bulletin. Look, also, for the unique anniversary banner that will be used at special events throughout 2007-2008. Anniversaries are always a time for looking back with gratitude and for looking forward with hope to the future. This Jubilee Year will be the same for us as a parish community. This year offers us an important opportunity to be grateful for blessings received through fifty years and to renew our commitments to ministry together. During this year, I shall ask the Council of Ministries to assess our strengths and weaknesses as a parish and make recommendations for further service. I shall also ask the Finance Council to take a closer look at all our expenditures and recommend how we can best serve all our parish members.

The coming year shall also bring to all our four parishes in Manchester an opportunity and a challenge. We have been asked by the Archdiocesan Restructuring Committee to recommend to them how a linkage of parishes in our city could work. No parish will be closed, but two or more parishes will be asked to share resources, including sharing a priest. Much more on this will follow. The work of the Catholic Community of Manchester (CCM) has prepared us for this next step.

It is good that the fall affords us much creativity and energy for the tasks ahead. May the good God guide us all both in gratitude and in our work together.

**Father Tom**

suit? ...or shorts? ...or a tank top?" An observation Father Tom makes is a telling one: the Haitians, who are close to our hearts, are the poorest people in the hemisphere. Yet, when they come to Mass, they give a new meaning to the term "Sunday Best". The women wear dresses; the men, long trousers - Haitian heat and humidity notwithstanding - and the children are dressed "to the nines".



## YOUTH MINISTRY TRIP TO BERNALILLO, NEW MEXICO

### *In Their Own Words - AMAZING!*

By Harry Robinson



The August Youth Ministry trip to Bernalillo, New Mexico, to restore an adobe church has been completed, but the participants believe that the experience will be remembered forever. For Vicky Rispoli, Youth Minister, this was a WOW experience: “The group understood what it meant to do mission work, hard work, what it meant to be caring people of their Catholic faith. St. Bart’s and the parents of the youth should feel proud.” Vicky asked her group to respond to their experience. As you read their responses, you will glean from them what the trip was all about. The participants refer to the welcoming they received, the hard work in repairing the adobe walls of the church, their feelings of accomplishment, their increased spirituality. They were especially grateful to Vicky Rispoli’s family (who live near Albuquerque), to the Bernalillo community and to St. Bart’s.

#### ***Responses of the participants:***

Kyle Botteron - After finishing work on the last day, I walked around the church. I was amazed; there was not one wall of the church that we didn’t touch. I expected this trip to be amazing and it was.

Ashley Williams - This trip made me realize that people appreciate what you do. We worked so well together that I saw God in everyone.

Megan Duffy (chaperone) - I’ll never forget the individuals in the group. Not only are they hard workers but they are also beautiful people.

Lauren Morency - Restoring the church gave the Bernalillo community a reflection on their past. Constant *thank you’s* reminded us of the positive impact we had on the community.

Patrick Duffy (chaperone) – These young people accomplished things that might seem impossible for teens. It was truly inspiring to lead such a diverse group.

Jacob Stokes - We had fun and got a lot of work done. My most vivid memory was going to the “Life Teen” Mass.

Joey Rispoli - No words can ever describe our trip. I gained new friends, got closer to old friends, built a closer relationship with my family and God.

John Carlson - I remember Mrs. Rispoli’s family, especially Uncle Tony, an elderly man, full of knowledge and the Holy Spirit. The most important work I did was to plaster a wall with lime.

Jim Rispoli (chaperone) - I remember best the appreciation of the Bernalillo community, their devotion to St. Lorenzo and learning about the 311 years of the community devotion to their saint. Our kids made us proud.

Josh Piggott - I remember how caring and open the community was. During the fiesta of Saint Lorenzo, the

host family of the fiesta left their home open for 24 hours each day so people could come and pray.

Matt Wheeler - I remember how grateful everyone in the community was. One lady from the pueblo brought us three loaves of bread that she had baked in her adobe oven.

Becky Mears - I wish I could go back. I learned that I can do hard work like digging a hole and using plaster. I also learned that I had inner strength.

Audrey Arel - I remember the long, hot days in the sun and how they turned out to be fun. I will always remember Vicky’s cousins, Rick and Phyllis. They invited all twenty-three of us into their home.

Ian Snyder - It was one of the best experiences of my life. This will help the St. Bart’s community because it shows that St. Bart’s is a parish to be proud of.

Libby Hamlin - A random happening at the worksite I remember was eating peaches from the tree in the church garden. They nourished me when the work tired me. It wasn’t a coincidence; it was God.

John Silhavy - I will remember how kind the Bernalillo community was. It was easy to see how strong their faith and community was.

Kaleigh O’Brien - Seeing the kindness and generosity of the people is what made me want to get up every day and do as much work as I could.

Anna Piggott - I learned how important it is to help others. Two people who really stood out were the site leaders, Antonio and Francisco. They were always willing to help and had great patience.

Dottie Caudullo - At first I felt overwhelmed, but after four days the restoration was near completion. Walls were put up, finished, the back yard cleared, holes filled – a sense of accomplishment.

Renata Krach - I had not expected that we would be interacting with native New Mexicans. We spent time with the local youth group and visited the pueblo Indians. All were welcoming and generous.

Alyssa Carreau - The trip was a life-changing experience. One influential person I met on the trip was Antonio who helped us restore the church. He had the best stories. He never got frustrated with us, even when we had no idea what we were doing.

Patti Wawzyniecki (chaperone) - A cherished memory of the week was looking over the entire worksite and twenty-three pairs of hands busy at work – plastering, patching, shedding straw, filling mixers – all in the hot sun, and no whining. God truly blessed our work.

A touching comment came from a phone call to a parent who had not gone on the trip: “Mom, I love you and miss you, but I want to stay here!”

## LIVING THE FAITH – MEET DIANNE MCPHERSON

By Ed Rowe

Dianne McPherson, born in Southbridge, MA - the oldest of six children - all girls, spent most of her life in Massachusetts, except for the four years in her teens when the family relocated to St. Louis. After the family returned to Massachusetts, Dianne graduated from high school in Springfield and then worked for a local law firm for four years as a legal secretary. She then moved to Boston for a similar position with a corporate law office and then returned to the Springfield area for twenty-one years. She worked in the law department of Society for Savings/Bank Boston in Hartford but then was laid off during Bank Boston's merger with Fleet. Dianne rebounded from that and for the past several years has been an executive assistant for Accenture, a Hartford consulting firm.

Married to husband Dan for twenty years, she has been a member of St. Bart's for ten years. And, those years have been busy and productive as Dianne has been involved in just about every aspect of St. Bart's parish life. Currently, Dianne is the acting secretary for the Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing (MISH). You may well remember presentations that she made last fall to outline the purpose and intent of MISH to end homelessness in Manchester. Now, MISH is being incorporated into the Manchester Congregations' Housing Corporation that is the umbrella organization for ten area churches and a local synagogue. St. James and St. Bridget's are members of this Corporation, and Dianne hopes to see St. Bart's become a member.

In May of this year Dianne completed the "JustFaith" program, which is a thirty-week immersion in Catholic

social justice, featuring readings, tapes and DVDs. A large component of "JustFaith" requires involvement with people in need, and Dianne talked with shelter residents to understand poverty, homelessness and immigration from a different perspective. This spring, she was instrumental in asking for St. Bart's support for The Farm Bill before Congress, and seventy-five parishioners wrote letters to their Congressional representatives asking them to support this legislation. Dianne believes that the "JustFaith" program provides one with a broad understanding of Catholic social justice that can be applied toward advocacy and political action.

As a member of the Social Justice Committee of the Catholic Community of Manchester (CCM) for the past three years, Dianne meets monthly with representatives from the four Catholic churches of CCM to discuss ways to involve all four parishes in social justice initiatives. For example, during this past Lent, readers may recall a Sunday afternoon session during which the book, *Opting for the Poor*, was discussed.

At St. Bart's Dianne has been secretary for the Parish Finance Council for the past six years. The Council meets quarterly to discuss the state of church finances and repairs and to establish long-term goals. She has also worked in the nursery, so that during Sunday Masses, children can go down to "Noah's Ark" and engage in various activities. Dianne enjoys watching the children grow up and maintain their commitment to St. Bart's parish life as altar servers and youth peer ministers. Three years ago Dianne took on the responsibility of coordinating Donut Sunday, which

requires her to set up Father Hussey Hall on Saturday afternoon, coordinate the drivers who pick up the donuts and arrive early Sunday morning to make sure everything runs smoothly. (*And, it certainly does! Thanks, Diane.*) Additionally, she has helped the social team with logistics for the church picnic for the past three years.

Dianne has saved her two favorite St. Bart's activities for now: Seasonal Sharing and the Samaritan Shelter. She has always enjoyed the Seasonal Sharing program that supports MACC and Hockanum Valley families at Christmas. For the past five years she has worked with Sherry Keeran to organize the gift giving for this holiday event. From late October, Dianne and Sherry organize the angels on the gift tree, make sure those gifts are returned in a timely manner and that they are wrapped and delivered along with the food baskets. This is an intense, but rewarding experience for Dianne. Also, she finds her participation in the MACC Samaritan Shelter enjoyable. Over the past ten years she has stayed overnight at the shelter many times and has seen some significant changes. Initially, only twenty people, all men, would stay overnight at the shelter, but with times changing, the number of people - including women - needing the services of the shelter have increased. And, we're fortunate that people like Dianne McPherson are there to answer that need.

Dianne says that the best part of being involved at St. Bart's is the great people you get to work with. It makes it easy to volunteer.

*(Editor's note: That's a challenge to all of us!)*

## JOINING THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY *By Karen Trespacz*

*Editor's Note: Karen Trespacz was an involved parishioner at St. Bart's. This is the beginning of her new journey.*

I woke up with a sense of wonder: "I'm really a Benedictine Postulant! It's actually happening!" Who would have thought that the journey which began back at St. Bart's two years ago, in an Ignatian Retreat led by Father Tom Sievel, would result in a fifty-seven year old parishioner joining a Benedictine monastery in Virginia!

I signed up for Father Tom's retreat because my plans for the future had exploded, and I wondered if God had any ideas. (Sometimes it takes a disaster to open us up to the truly wonderful!) But I kept putting limits on the possibilities, like: "I have to stay in my Vernon house." It took months to find out what my limits were and let go of them. Then in March 2005, towards the end of the retreat, I was driving up I-91 thinking about nothing in particular, when it hit me that I would be a nun. I was filled with such peace and joy. I knew this had to be the answer! I applied for an annulment and started trying to figure out what kind of sister I was to be, and where. I got *VISION* magazine ([www.vocation-network.org](http://www.vocation-network.org)) and dropped in on the Archdiocesan Vocations Office announcing happily, "I've been called to be a nun! Can you help me find the right order?" The priest looked at me in dismay (he probably had a meeting in a few minutes) and said, "And what else? Teaching? Working with the poor?" I admitted shamefacedly that my call hadn't come with instructions. I was discouraged; I didn't have an "and what" – perhaps my calling was defective? But still, it was what it was, and I had to go forward with what I had.

I started searching locally and began bumping into walls. Some orders wouldn't talk to me because I was "under a legal impediment" (the annulment hadn't come through). Some orders said they wouldn't consider mothers (my daughter, Jennifer, is twenty-three). Almost all said their cutoff age was fifty – or younger! A year passed and things were looking grim. It dawned on me that if I followed the ordinary process – get annulment, find order, then settle my affairs – I would be too old even for orders that would "make an exception for the right person." It was time to sell the house.

Impediments started to fall away. My sister suggested I come live with her in Virginia. Jennifer decided she wasn't coming home for the summer any more – she signed a two-year lease on a Queens apartment and got a part-time job at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. When I went to visit my family for Father's Day, my mom said, "I'd really rather you just retired. But if you're serious about this, why don't you talk to the sisters around the corner?" She had met a Benedictine sister through a program the sister had started, was very impressed, and made arrangements for me to talk to the Vocation Directress, Sister Vicki, who invited me to a Discernment Weekend in October.

Saturday morning of the Weekend, Sister Vicki did a presentation describing three types of religious orders: first, apostolic orders, which have specific missions (these are the "and what" orders); next, contemplative orders. Although prayer is very important to me, I also needed ministry. Then Sister Vicki got to a new category I hadn't heard of before – monastic orders, where sisters seek God in community and minister in whatever ways seem most helpful. Finally – an order that matched my call!

I applied for their Live-In Program. This program helps you decide whether living in an 8' by 10' room and sharing chores, meals and regular prayer with the rest of the community is really for you. My Live-In experience started in mid-January 2007; I joined Kathy Persson who is also a mother – and a grandmother! I loved it! I was warmed by the sisters' love and nurtured by their faith.

I also discovered their love was large enough to include families. Sister Linda, the first sister to enter as a mother and grandmother, passed away. Watching the sisters embrace the family who came to her funeral, and hearing her son talk about how wonderful the community has been to him over the years was important because, of course, entering a community did not mean I was going to stop loving Jennifer!

The remaining pieces fell into place in March. My house sold. The annulment arrived. And at exactly the same time that my house was closing in Connecticut, Sister Vicki handed me an application to join the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia ([www.osbva.org](http://www.osbva.org))! Spring and summer were a whirlwind of preparation, including acceptance of my application in June, and a wonderful 10-day trip to Scotland with Jennifer in August.

Finally, Entrance Day came, and Kathy and I knocked on the monastery door surrounded by our families. What a heart-pounding moment when the door opened and we were asked, "What do you seek?" In a simple and moving ceremony, we were accepted as postulants and took our place in the circle for Evening Prayer. This sounds like the end of the story, but of course the journey into religious life is only just beginning!

## ST. BART'S PARISH FAMILY SERVING THOSE IN NEED IN HAITI

By Debi Ashmead

On the beautiful island of Haiti in the city of Jeremie live over 200,000 of the poorest people in our hemisphere. John Paul II gave a speech in 1983 during his visit to Haiti claiming, "Things must change here!" Even though there have been many changes over the last twenty years, Haiti continues to be one of the least developed countries in the western world. Eighty percent of the population practices Catholicism. What a difference St. Bart's can make. St. Bart's parishioners continue to exemplify our church community's mission statement - "Love one another as God has loved us ...Work for the reign of God in our World". The parish family continues to support Haiti by collecting many items including tuna fish, Ziploc bags, canvas bags and, new this season, white socks. This past May, Father Tom Sievel along with Ann Nevelos, Ed Sopelak, Andrew Wheeler, Brian Dinnie and Maggie Hamlin all set out to do just that - love one another and work for the reign of God.

When asked about the Haitian mission trip, Ann Nevelos immediately replies, "it was a once in a lifetime chance". Andrew Wheeler, a 2007 high school graduate, was thrilled to participate in what he also stated as a "once in a lifetime opportunity". Brian Dinnie, who just graduated college felt "blessed that he had the opportunity to attend this year".

Ann explains how much work there is to be done and that there is something for everyone. This was also a great path for her own journey; as a secular Franciscan, she found a way to exemplify her faith. In Haiti, Ann worked at the Center of Hope, a woman's center where care is given to mothers and their babies. Ann's blessings included holding babies, making formula with Sister Sophie and participating in a program where fluoride treatments were administered

to over one hundred children. The same day, Sister Maryann brought her next door to visit a disabled couple. Ann's words are touching: "You can't imagine they have so little compared to what Americans have. Americans have a safety net to help them when they need it; this poor country has very little." Ann was also able to lend her computer skills in the office for two days where administrative and computer skills are needed.

Andrew Wheeler has been on mission trips before and was looking to take his mission experiences to a new level. He spoke to Father Tom who thought he was ready and welcomed him to come along to Haiti. Andrew describes how every morning there was a list of chores that needed to be done. He fed infants who were protein deficient and handed out clothes. Andrew, Ed Sopelak and Brian Dinnie spent the better part of three days building a much-needed wall inside an optometrist's office where lack of tools and equipment made for a difficult job. Andrew, experienced in working with automotive and small engines, and Ed repaired some generators that had been broken for two years. Every day was unique, so volunteers could try to determine where their talents were most needed. Another highlight during the trip was watching the faces of the children of the village light up with smiles as Maggie Hamlin handed out lollypops.

For Andrew, the hardest part of the trip was staying in such a beautiful place when there were so many poor all around. The complex was clean and comfortable, and the volunteers had their own room and bed. Brian shares that it was such a gratifying experience for him. His first impression was "shock" - shock as to how "deplorable the conditions were." He could not believe that "such a poor place existed and people live like this." He could see that the "people are very

happy, enjoy life and give thanks everyday for everything they have" - in spite of the poverty!

A remarkable experience that Ann, Andrew and Brian recounted was their visit to the prison. Brian explains what a big step this was because it was the first time in twenty-five years the government had trusted the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) enough to allow entry into the prison. They brought a sandwich for each of the 168 prisoners, which Maggie and Ann distributed to each cellmate, one-by-one. The lack of a judicial system - by our standards - was eye opening. About thirty men - ranging in age from 16-60 - were existing in a 20'x 20' room for twenty-two hours each day. They had been arrested for such crimes as taking their shirt off in public or stealing a chicken to feed their family. The judge came around about once a year to hear each case. Ann remembers wanting to cry, "Where is Amnesty International?"

Father Tom definitely sees the progress of what HHF has accomplished in this village along with the help of St. Bart's parish family. One remarkable example is that the number of children immunized in Jeremie is an astounding 87%.

If you would like to learn more about the remarkable work being done in Haiti, please visit the HHF website: [www.haitianhealthfoundation.org](http://www.haitianhealthfoundation.org).

## DEDICATED TO ST. BART'S – *Dick and Rita Borden*

By Bob Albert

Dick was preparing for a trip to Philadelphia on behalf of Rotary International and Rita was helping him get ready for the trip, among many other things, as I sat down to interview them for this article. Such is life at the home of Dick and Rita Borden, committed St. Bart's parishioners since 1995. Just another busy day in the schedule of these active parishioners. At St. Bart's, Rita is best known for the beautiful and inspirational altar decorations that she designs and creates with Rita Laboto for major feast days, such as Christmas and Easter, and for special liturgies, such as First Communion and Confirmation. Dick, utilizing his business experience and financial acumen, serves on the Parish Finance Council (for seven years) and as its chairperson for the past five years. He also served as the chairperson of the committee for the celebration of Father Tom Sievel's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary to the priesthood. Let's learn more about this interesting couple.

Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, Rita later moved to Mansfield where she graduated from Mansfield High School. Early in life, she learned the beauty of nature from her father, a landscape architect for the City of Waterbury, before the family relocated to Mansfield, where her father worked as a landscape architect for the University of Connecticut (UConn). Graduating from UConn with a Bachelors Degree (BS) in Fine Arts and a Masters in Interior Design, Rita taught at UConn for a year before becoming "a stay at home Mom". She then started her current business - *Rita Borden Interiors*.

Dick was born in Fall River, MA, but grew up and went to school in Windham, CT. After graduating with a degree in Accounting from UConn, he worked at Colt's Industries in West Hartford and earned a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA), concentrating in management and finance, from the University of Hartford. He then began his career in the public sector as the Town Manager of Vernon in 1968. Later he served as the Town Manager in Cheshire. While in Cheshire he earned a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of New Haven concentrating in public management and labor law. In 1979 he became the Town Manager of Glastonbury for the next fourteen years. During these stints, Dick also served as a labor arbitrator for over twenty-five years, working to resolve labor issues between management and unions in the public sector. In 1996, he opened his own business, *Borden Reality*, specializing in property management and residential and commercial sales.

Rita and Dick first met while attending UConn and were married in 1965. They have three children and six grandchildren:

Older daughter Mary and her husband, Brian McKernan, live with their two sons, Connor (8) and Aidan (6) in Andover, MA. Mary graduated from UConn and then earned a law degree from the UConn School of Law. Before becoming a "stay at home Mom" like Rita, she was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut. This spring and summer found Rita helping Mary decorate her new "gorgeous home on Nantucket Island".

Cathy, the middle child, lives in Tolland with her husband, John Healy, and their two daughters, Shannon (10) and Paige (8). Cathy, who received a BS from UConn and a Masters from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), works as a computer software designer at UConn. John is a pilot in the Air Force Reserve and with Jet Blue Airlines.

Their son, John, graduated from Western New England College and earned a Masters from CCSU. Living in Glastonbury with his wife, Katie, and son, Sean (4), and daughter, Erin (1), he is a Director of Marketing for Loctite Corporation.

At St. Bart's, Rita serves on the Liturgy Committee and works with Rita Laboto to decorate the church for Sunday Liturgy on a rotating basis with other members of the Liturgy Committee. Rita thoroughly enjoys the planning and decorating of the church but states, "It is a challenge to decorate such a large space with limited funds to enhance the celebration of the Liturgy." (*From comments that I've heard parishioners make, they're doing a fantastic job!!*) Also, she is a member of the Small Church Community that meets on Thursday mornings at St. Bart's.

In addition to working with parish finances at St. Bart's, Dick enjoys the men's quarterly breakfasts. He stresses that "the pastor is the CEO of the parish and that all of us need to support Father Tom in his initiatives. Father Tom listens to people and he knows what is best for the parish. It's key that we all support the Repair My Church Fund to maintain our physical plant. St. Bart's", Dick says, "is a great parish with great people."

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Now that Dick has become a District Governor for Northern Connecticut and Western Massachusetts in Rotary International, both Rita and Dick find that much of their time is spent supporting this fine service organization. As a District Governor, Dick functions as the communications link between the sixty-three clubs in his region and Rotary International. Rita supports Dick in his work and attends as many functions as possible. She has enjoyed meeting people of different nationalities whom they have met while attending conventions in such places as San Diego and Salt Lake City.

*Editor's note: for information about Rotary International, please see "About Rotary" on this page.*

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## ABOUT ROTARY

**Rotary International** is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 service clubs, known as Rotary Clubs, in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Their most notable current global project, PolioPlus, is contributing to the global eradication of polio. Since beginning the project in 1985, Rotarians have contributed over \$600 million and tens of thousands of volunteer hours, leading to the inoculation of more than two billion

of the world's children. Before eradication efforts began, polio paralyzed more than a thousand children a day, in excess of 350,000 children a year. The incidence of polio has since declined by more than 99 percent.

On the local level and in conjunction with the World Health Organization, Manchester Rotary and several other Rotary Clubs working together raised \$25,000 to build a water system in a small town in Guatemala so that clean water would be available. Prior to the creation of the system, water had to be carried by the bucketful from a spring to the town. And, as part of its efforts to promote literacy in Manchester, the local Rotary Club provides a dictionary to each student at the beginning of the third grade.

*For additional information about Rotary International please visit the website at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or contact Dick Borden.*

## COUNTING THE DO-RE-MI (OR COLLECTIONS)

*By Loretta Pazdan*

**Wanted: a few good men and women to help count the offertory collection at St. Bart's, usually once a month; or, as a substitute counter on an "as needed" basis.**

**Job Description: Work as a member of a high-performance team, counting the offertory collection in St. Bart's Parish office.**

**Qualifications: Ability to count to ten. Like to handle money. Available a few hours once a month. Training will be provided and you will be given a written explanation of duties and procedures.**

**Starting Time: after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday or on Monday.**

**Contact Person: Diane Gluhosky, Administrative Assistant, at St. Bart's Parish Office: 646-1613 or [dgluhosky@aol.com](mailto:dgluhosky@aol.com).**

**Rewards are many!!!**

- ✓ Feeling good about helping in your parish.
- ✓ Giving of your time and talent.
- ✓ Nice way to meet your fellow parishioners.

***Won't you consider giving only 2 to 2 1/2 hours of your time once a month on a Sunday or Monday, to help the current thirteen volunteers?***

## ST. BART'S WEBSITE

By John Garoppolo

*check out the new design*

[www.stbartparish.org](http://www.stbartparish.org)

Parishioner John Mutchek first accessed St. Bart's website in 1999 and found that much of the information had not been updated. A programmer by profession, John offered to update and keep the website current, an offer Father Tom Sievel and St. Bart's staff welcomed. One advantage of having a website is that it can be accessed any day at any hour - church office hours are not a factor!

In order to have a website on the Internet, a host company is paid an annual fee for use of its services. Once established, St. Bart's site has been continually updated with information from various parish areas including music, religious education and youth ministry. Information is sent to John and then entered on the website. When accessing St. Bart's website the Home Page (the first page that "pops up" when an internet site is accessed) lists what can be found on the site. Then, one just has to click on the link to view it.

For example, a link on St. Bart's Home Page brings the viewer to the Catholic Community of Manchester (CCM) website for information, such as Mass schedules for weekends and holy days, for the four Catholic parishes in Manchester - St. Bart's, St. Bridget's, St. James and Assumption. John is also the webmaster for CCM.

Also on the St. Bart's site, the current issue of the Sunday bulletin and the three prior weeks are available, as well as the last four issues of *Bart's Herald* and a calendar for the year with dates for all upcoming events. The site even contains schedules for

eucharistic ministers, lectors, altar servers and greeters. All of this information enables St. Bart's parishioners who "go south" for the winter to keep current with what is happening in the parish. Another feature, found only in the summer, allows access to a site listing churches in the United States and some foreign countries with their Mass schedules. This becomes very handy for summer travelers.

John would like to make the website more interactive to enable a parishioner to submit requests, recommendations and questions online to the proper ministry or committee. He has talked with Denise Bartlett, DRE, about using the website to register students for Religious Education next year. This will take some work because registration fees are involved. Technically, it is possible to use an account set up for the church that will allow parents to transfer money into the church's account. Another way in which the website could be more interactive is for prospective new parishioners to request and receive information about St. Bart's and then complete a parish registration form online.

John has just redesigned St. Bart's website, so why not visit it ([www.stbartparish.org](http://www.stbartparish.org)), and see what is out there. (*Bart's Herald* thinks you'll be surprised at the wealth of information!). Since John is always looking for feedback from parishioners, please send him yours via email as to what you would like the site to contain at [webmaster@stbartparish.org](mailto:webmaster@stbartparish.org)

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