

BART'S HERALD

Saint Bartholomew Church 45 Ludlow Road, Manchester, CT 06040

December 2007

Q&A ON SCCs AT ST. BART'S

By Bob Albert

What is a Small Church Community (SCC)?

A small group of ordinary people helping each other connect to life and faith.

It is *not* just ...a faith sharing group, a prayer group, a Bible study group, a service group, a friendship group, a therapy group...it is each of these at times but much more.

How does an SCC do that?

We read Scripture, reflect on the Word of God for the upcoming Sunday and share - *if one wants to* - life experiences.

How many SCCs do we have at St. Bart's?

We have four SCCs that meet during the week: Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays at 4 p.m., the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 9:45 a.m.

What have the SCCs done?

Enrich the spiritual life of each participant.

The Monday SCC organized a food drive in October for the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) food pantry. Almost 250 jars of peanut butter and two bags of groceries were collected for the food pantry!

Sandy Ouellette prepares a brief narrative about the Sunday readings and several focus questions for personal meditation or group sharing in the weekly parish bulletin.

Recently, several members of St. Bart's SCC Core Team, along with Father Tom Sievel, attended a 2½ day workshop, *Called to be Church*, at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, conducted by Father Art Baranowski, the author of the book, *Creating Small Church Communities*". Father Baranowski is a worldwide leader on small church communities.

How can I join an SCC?

Please contact a member of the SCC Core Team: Bob Albert, Joan Hamilton, Bob Kostek, Phyllis Lemieux, Ann Nevelos, Sandy Ouellette, Madeleine Robinson or Father.



PASTOR'S CORNER

By Father Tom Sievel

As late fall and winter approach, the church sets our thoughts on the "end times", that is, on reflection on our own death, the remembering of our own departed, and on the end of the world, when Christ will come again in glory. These are weighty themes, to be sure, but they are full of hope and promise for us because of our faith in Jesus Christ. I write regarding one of these "end times", the death of someone dear to us. Specifically, we look at the funeral liturgy in our Catholic church.

Because we believe in the sacredness of each person and in the resurrection of the body on the last day, we treat the bodies of the deceased with dignity and care. In the current disposition of the universal church, either burial of the body or cremation and burial of the cremains, is permitted. Generally, if traditional burial is chosen, the church sets three stages to the burial rites. The first stage corresponds to the wake and involves a short service of scripture and prayer. This may be led by a priest, deacon or lay minister. Of course, other groups (e.g. the Legion of Mary) may also lead the rosary or other traditional prayers. The second stage corresponds to the Mass of Christian Burial - whether a body is present, cremains are present or no body is present. This is the most important part of the Catholic burial rites. The celebration of Mass for the deceased is most important. If a body or cremains are present, they are honored with holy water and incense as befits the dignity of the baptized. The church celebrates the final commendation of the person to God with special rites at the end of the liturgy. A family member (limited now at St. Bart's to one person) may give a brief eulogy. Additional eulogies may be given at the wake or at the cemetery. The third stage is the actual burial rite at the cemetery. Special prayers are recited by either a priest, deacon or lay minister. This third stage is appropriate also for cremated remains.

Please note that it is not acceptable Catholic practice to keep the cremated remains of a person at home for any length of time. It is not acceptable to scatter the ashes anywhere, either. Burial of cremated remains may be done at sea, but no scattering of ashes is permitted. It is always necessary to bury cremains in a cemetery or place them in a columbarium constructed for that purpose.

Father Tom

MEET THE AREL FAMILY

By Debi Ashmead

Meet the Arel family! Their humble willingness to tell their story resonates in the hope that somehow they might be able to help someone who might be struggling with faith. Serge and Jen have been married for over twenty years and have four beautiful children: Audrey, Lauren, Joey and Justin. The Arel family switched to the St. Bart's parish family seventeen years ago when their oldest daughter Audrey was baptized. They were looking for an active young parish where they could be involved along their faith journey. They had friends that told them about the youth ministry program and the young parish, and they were excited to come and see what St. Bart's was all about. Read on to see how this amazing family of six manages to stay grounded in their faith and values while maintaining schedules of four kids going in all different directions.

Prior to being on their fully committed faith journey, they encountered questions along the way. In the early years of Serge and Jen's marriage, their faith was challenged by evangelicals. They credit their commitment to remaining Catholic partly to the research and work that they have put into their journey. As a young couple, they were thinking of leaving the Catholic Church to find another religion, but decided to first understand what it is that the Catholic Church was really all about (they sought answers within the Catholic Church first). They are still knocking, praying and seeking, and like an onion, every time they peel away a layer of understanding, they find more to peel. It's a life long journey. But, part of how they tried to become more in tune with their faith was to follow the old adage that you get more out of something if you become a part of it. We get out of things what we put into them. Therefore, this led them down the road to finding ways to be involved in their church. They eventually made it mandatory that each eligible person in

the family had to do something. The Arels firmly believe the church is the people so we make it what it is. We cannot wait for someone else to make it what it is. Many hands make light work, so we must all roll up our sleeves. The result has helped them stay on track with their faith journey, and today they believe in sharing their talents and treasures with their parish family.

It started out with the yearly MACC Christmas delivery of packages that they could all do as a family when the children were all very young. As the children have aged, it's turned into many things at different times of their lives. They certainly were able to fulfill their wish of their family being involved in a parish. Each family member has been able to find his or her own stewardship opportunities. Serge has been a catechist for many years, enjoying the Old Testament through teaching sixth graders. His humble stories of discussions with eleven year olds in the library classroom are heartwarming. He has recognized how much his faith journey has grown from his catechism involvement with the Old Testament. Audrey and Joey have been altar servers for many years as well. Lauren has recruited the entire family to help with donut Sunday. Jen has been involved with many different ministries while the children were at different stages.

All three ladies in the house have had a beautiful impact on the parish family through their music ministry. Recently, Audrey had the privilege to cantor at her Confirmation Mass, while Lauren accompanied in the youth choir and played oboe. According to Jen, everyone became involved with the Confirmation "...sort of unexpectedly." The girls were first involved because of their youth choir allegiance. Then, Joey was asked by Diane Gluhosky if he could be an altar server. Finally, Jen was asked about a week prior to the Confirmation if she

could play the violin during the anointing, since there can be no vocals at that particular time of the Mass. Everyone had said they'd help out, and it all just sort of happened that way. Jen says, "It was a nice blessing". But, as commitment levels in the home and schools change, they will undoubtedly change how they help out but will always try to do something.

Audrey and Lauren both beam when asked about their involvement with youth ministry. Audrey said she's "made good friends who share her values and faith". Her recent account of the mission trip to New Mexico was "...how amazing it is to see people show their faith in everything they do". She enjoyed the work in New Mexico, even though chipping plaster and making adobe was hard work. Lauren is just beginning in the youth ministry program and really looking forward to it. Joey enjoys the junior youth group. All three teenagers, along with their father, recently enjoyed the youth rally with 3,300 teenagers from all over the Archdiocese. Audrey, Lauren and Joey are off to such a great start with their faith journey; they are setting awesome examples for their little brother, Justin. One can only imagine the great things that will come from Justin in the future!

MACC TO OPEN NEW FOOD PANTRY

By Loretta Pazdan

The shelving has arrived! And, final preparations are being made for the opening of the Manchester Area Conference of Churches' (MACC) new food pantry some time after Thanksgiving. The new food pantry will be located in a recently renovated building that MACC purchased next door to its present building at 466 Main Street in Manchester. It will operate as a small market, allowing clients to choose from stocked shelves rather than just being handed a bag of food. With much more space than the current food pantry, the clients will be able to move shopping carts through the market, selecting foods more to their family's liking. Of course, limits will be set on the amount and types of food that a family can select, just as limits – mostly economic - are set for any other shopper. Dale Doll, Director of Food Services, believes this approach to receiving food not only trains people how to shop, but also provides dignity for the shoppers as they select their own items.

Dale, responsible for the operation of the soup kitchen and shelter feeding programs in addition to the food pantry, said 930 different families obtained groceries from MACC's food pantry last year. Although the number of families using the food pantry was down slightly from the previous year, she attributes this to the increased use of the federal food stamp program that MACC has been championing for its clients. Setting a goal of increasing nutrition, MACC has encouraged combining the use of food stamps with items from the pantry. Dale said that one of the barriers for people using food stamps was the embarrassment that many felt when using the program. "The food stamp program", says Dale, "is a nutrition program for low-income households, not a welfare program." For instance, did you know that: the federal food stamp program brings federal tax dollars back to the local community as people shop for foods at local markets?...that for every dollar of food stamps spent, almost two dollars of economic activity is generated in the local community?...that food stamps and your donations to food pantries like MACC's increase the nutritional level of others, resulting in less sickness?

Please help MACC help our neighbors by continuing to donate non-perishable food items to MACC throughout the year. St. Bart's has a reputation for responding generously to helping others in need. Let's all be part of MACC's new food pantry!!!

For more information please visit the MACC website at www.macc-ct.org or call (860) 647-8003.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 2007-08

From an interview with Denise Bartlett

By John Garoppolo

A new and *exciting* year has started for St. Bart's Religious Education Department (RED) according to Denise Bartlett, Director of Religious Education (DRE).

For the K-6 student group, Religious Education is using the *Finding God* series, a comprehensive text with a multiple intelligence approach recognizing different ways of learning. For example, a lesson about St. Francis of Assisi might include reading and discussion followed by a trip outside to observe nature and a guided meditation using a CD. Six graders, who are studying the Old Testament, will be using a new Bible called *Breakthrough!* Using language that is familiar to the students, the Bible applies the readings to every day life by using an example in a young person's life. Denise feels strongly that this approach will greatly enhance the comprehension of Bible stories. The seventh grade continues to use *Jesus Of Nazareth* as their text as they follow the life of Jesus. Eighth graders study church history as well as sexuality. The ninth and tenth grades are studying for Confirmation with Vicky Rispoli, Youth Minister.

Denise and Vicky have scheduled two nationally known jugglers, Apex, who will share their faith with junior high and high school students through juggling, stories, and experiences. Also, Steve Agrisano, who is well known in the music world with a special appeal to teenagers, will meet with DREs, youth ministers, eighth graders, and high school teenagers in March when he appears before the deanery.

Religious Education is not all book learning but also contains a fun and friendly competition component. When passing by the RED office, notice the bulletin board with a large umbrella in a boot and many smaller boots under it. Every time students in grades K-5 let their love shine through by doing a good deed, a boot with their name is placed under the large umbrella. The primary grades have a contest by collecting white socks for families in Haiti. Haitian children wear uniforms with white socks to school and, as you can imagine, the need for white socks is crucial. Often, there is only one pair of socks per family, and family members must share the socks. Junior high students are taking pledges for jumping rope, and the proceeds will be sent to the Haitian Health Foundation. These are just a few of the examples in which our students are putting their faith into action, making for a new and *exciting* year.

ROLANDE DUPREY - PROFESSIONAL PUPPETEER

By Harry Robinson

You have seen her. You have heard her. She has been in our midst for two years. Look for her in the second row of the adult choir. Listen to her soprano voice. Sing with her as she joyfully joins in congregational singing. She is Rolande Duprey, professional puppeteer, artistic director of *Purple Rock Productions*, specializing in puppetry, storytelling, music and pantomime. Rolande explains the relationship between singing in the choir, tells about her continuing interest in puppetry, and gives us some special insights into the world of puppetry.

Rolande was formerly a singer at St. Isaac Jogues in East Hartford in what she calls a “fabulous” choir, now disbanded, but her love of music and her friendship with Jane Peacock impelled her to St. Bart’s. In one sense she sees singing and puppetry as theatrical media, visual music. Each involves instruments and performance. She sees herself and her family as creative people. When she was growing up, her family encouraged her to “put on shows.” Her mother even started her off in puppetry by making simple puppets – taking an orange, peeling the sides, and making a face. In Hartford she began telling stories to children in libraries, where she met Gertrude Blanks, a storyteller and dramatic actress. When she told Blanks that she wanted to become a puppeteer but did not feel competent, Blanks replied, “That’s exactly what you should do. You have to do that.” And she did that – passionately! She then attended the University of Connecticut, majoring in puppetry, and became the first woman at UConn to receive a Master of Fine Arts degree in that field. She talks with love about what one can do with puppets and what she has done. For her thesis presentation – *Well Wishes* – UConn hired Jane Peacock, to compose the music and to apply her organizational skills. *Well Wishes* incorporated over forty puppets.

Her shows have been many and varied: fairy tales such as *Spinning Straw* (the story of Rumpelstiltskin), whose characters are flawed and their actions done with broad strokes; *The Alien Ate It*, featuring a puppet ten-feet tall; Shakespearean productions like *The Comedy of Errors*; and *Ting!*, a family production with layers of meaning and totally nonverbal.

One of her productions, *Puppet Panorama: the World as Seen Through the Eyes of the Puppets*, dramatizes a history of puppetry in five segments. First, puppetry probably began with prehistoric man. One cave drawing (at Lascaux) resembles a bird at the end of a long pole – a rod puppet! Second shows a hand puppet of Mr. Punch. The map of the world transforms into a puppet ship, traveling to China, and thus introduces the third type of puppetry. Chinese shadow-play puppets began over 2,000 years ago, and the story is

told with three-dimensional tabletop puppets and a shadow puppet operated with rods against a screen in front of a light source. Segment four features Czech marionettes. Because a central rod controls their head movement, these puppets can say “No,” but cannot easily say, “Yes.” Finally comes an American-style puppet, a hand-in-rod puppet resembling those on television programs like *Sesame Street* and *Between the Lions*.

When asked if she had any favorite puppets, Rolande said emphatically that there are no favorites. They are not dolls: they are instruments. She is not attached to them, but they have a great deal of worth. She gives them free board, but they pay the rent. On a more serious note, she says her favorites are the ones she is working with at the time.

Rolande and her group have performed in schools, churches, temples, little theatres; at birthday parties, bat mitzvahs, outdoor productions at the shore, even at the Wadsworth Atheneum during the annual *Festival of Trees*. Rolande has made a CD of the sound track of one of the most popular productions, *The Snowmaiden*. She has taught at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Performing Arts and at the Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre in Glasgow, Scotland. She has also regularly offered classes at Manchester Community College through the Excursions in Learning program.

Rolande’s website (www.purplerock.org) represents the kind of “renaissance” person that she is and admires. There you can read of all her productions, see photos of many of her nearly two hundred puppets, be amazed by the number of persons and instruments involved in a production, learn how to make puppets (Rolande has made many), and experience how a show is put together. The name of her company, *Purple Rock Productions*, derives from a childhood experience walking with her mother, who was a scientist and artist. As they walked, her mother picked up a purple rock, rare geologically, and the purple rock became something of a family legend.

Puppetry has been like a calling, and Rolande says that the grace of God allows her to continue. She said that many people have never seen a puppet show and when they do so are entranced. Since she has done a production with children of the biblical story *Esther*, perhaps she could spellbind groups at St. Bart’s.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

By Henry Poirier



When Fran Gard, a student in the Archdiocesan lay ministry program, was given a social justice assignment, it was the beginning of an effort that resulted in a new ministry at St. Bartholomew. The assignment was forthright: find a need in your parish and fill it. After discussing it with her husband, Deacon Ed Giard, she met with Father Tom Sievel to see if he had an idea. His suggestion was quick: in spite of the variety of ministries at St. Bart's, there is one group which is being underserved - the elderly. Our fiftieth anniversary jubilee year itself is a reminder that we have a number of "founding family" members, as well as other parishioners, who are elderly and may have special needs. Although there are a number of services available in Manchester, there is something special about the caring of fellow parishioners.

With the goal of serving the elderly in mind, Fran turned to the implementation stage. A review of several options turned up one that looked promising - the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Vivian DiScipio, president of the Council of the Society for the Hartford area, confirmed that the mission Fran envisioned was well within the Society's scope. Subsequently, Vivian, Fran and Ed met with Father Tom and won his enthusiastic support. Next, there was an important question - are others in the parish interested in this ministry? The question was clearly answered when twenty-seven people attended an organization meeting! With a clear "GO" signal in hand, the Society at St. Bart's was founded with Fran as president of the Conference (the Society's title for a local organization). Other officers are Margaret Dumas, vice president; Al Dumas, treasurer; and Sandy Ouellette, secretary.

Founded in Paris in 1833, the Society has faithfully maintained its original principles over the years - except for one. Thankfully, it has changed from its original "men only" designation. Its present membership, symbolized by the officers noted above, indicates the demise of that idea. The service provided is person-to-person and hands on - it isn't just alms giving. There is a moral and spiritual component. And, it is a lay organization. For example, as spiritual advisor, Ed Giard has an important role, but as an ordained Deacon, he is not a member. The Society operates in a confidential manner in which the privacy and dignity of recipients are strictly maintained.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the Society can contact Fran or any of the people listed above or by leaving a note at the parish office. Fran asks that anyone knowing of an elderly person in need to please contact her. Be assured that confidentiality is strictly observed.

ADVENT - THE COMING OF JESUS

By Ed Rowe

Advent/Christmas is one of the three cycles in the Catholic liturgical year with the other two being Lent/Easter and Ordinary Time. While the Easter celebration is the primary cycle - without the Resurrection there is no Christian life - the Advent/Christmas cycle is close behind. This cycle emphasizes the preparation for Christ's coming in the flesh, into this world. It also emphasizes God's continued strong fidelity to His people.

For the first seven centuries after Jesus' birth, the period from December 24 through January 6 was in flux in developing a liturgical format. Depending on which Catholic rite one participated in, different importance was placed on different seasonal events. In our Western Roman rite, the current liturgical practices date back to the eight century AD. The structure was twelve days of Christmas, stretching to Epiphany, and going back the four weeks of preparation prior to Christmas - the Advent season. Advent is then further broken down into two parts with two themes. The time from the beginning of Advent to December 17 has nothing to do with Christmas, but with the emphasis on the coming of Jesus at the end of time. All the daily and Sunday Scripture readings prepare us for this event. The second part, from December 17 to December 24, is the preparation for Christmas. The Scripture centers on Jesus' origin as human, coming in the flesh, His genealogy, and the Annunciation to Mary. In the morning Mass of December 24, there is joy, anticipation and expectation at the good news of the birth of Jesus. This is not a penitential season with fasts and abstinence. Advent, as Father Tom Sievel states, "...flows into Christmas without us knowing when!"

For Christmas itself there are two primary feast days: December 25: the Incarnation, and the Sunday nearest January 6, the Epiphany, with Jesus' revelation and manifestation to the non-Jewish world. In between these feasts are three additional feast days: Holy Family on the Sunday between Christmas and Epiphany and Mary the Mother of God, her oldest title, which goes back to the fifth century AD. This feast of Mary's motherhood is always New Year's Day. The last feast day is the baptism of the adult Jesus, which is the Sunday following Epiphany.

As the reader can see, the Western Church made a liturgical commitment to a season of joy, anticipation and celebration at His birth and His coming at the end times.



Adventures with Jesus for Kids

By Debi Ashmead

This past summer we had another great vacation bible camp where kids could do all kinds of fun activities around a religious theme. Bible skits, crafts, games outside, and a snack are all part of the adventures and everything relates to a bible point or message around Jesus. Children from ages 3 to 100 come together to learn about and have fun with Jesus. From a planning perspective, the best part of the week was we had almost as many volunteers as we had children! Now that was an adventure for the adults, too. The planning for children is so much easier when you're a parish such as St. Bart's which is blessed with many preteens, teenagers and adults who come out and help. This support is what makes the children's social activities successful events also. Our pumpkin party turned out twenty-six kids and twelve teenage volunteers. It was a fun night of games, stories, food and prayer. The children helped with a service project for senior citizens. They brought bags of candy, which were all mixed together. The children painted little white bags with pumpkin themes and then we stuffed them with candy and brought them to a senior home in Vernon on Halloween night. The children also participated in a candle light prayer walk outside in the dark; it was certainly an evening of fun.

Stay tuned for more information regarding children's programs. The Christmas Party will be coming soon, watch the bulletin and the website for details on all future programs. If you are interested in helping with your time or money or any other way, please contact Debi Ashmead. Also, if you might have a special talent or treasure that our children could benefit from, we'd love to hear from you.

ST. BART'S - 50 YEARS YOUNG

ANNIVERSARY 1958 - 2008

By Loretta Pazdan



With the colorful 50th anniversary banner hung overhead, St. Bart's picnic was held on Sunday, September 9, at Northwest Park in Manchester where a large number of parishioners enjoyed each other's company along with good food that included delicious coleslaw and ice cream that Shady Glen generously donated. A good time was had by all!! With such a good turn out of parishioners, it was a great way to kick-off the 50th anniversary of the parish. (The *Reminder* published a nice article, which is posted in the parish office, in their September 18 issue.)

In preparation for the yearlong celebration, three committees have been created to make for a memorable year: 1) the history of the parish, 2) social and 3) publicity.

The committee handling history has set up a lovely curio cabinet in Father Hussey Hall, which contains interesting photos and archived items pertaining to the beginning of St. Bartholomew church. (You can be a part of this story by submitting your photos from the 1960s through the 1980s that pertain to First Holy Communion, parish bazaar, school pictures or other sacraments and social events, to the parish office.) St. Bart's was carved from St. Bridget and St. James parishes, and on April 12, 1959 a campaign to raise funds for a new church and school building began. Father Philip J. Hussey was the first Pastor at St. Bart's. Take the time to stop by Father Hussey Hall to learn more, while you view the very informative history of the parish!

The social committee held a wine tasting at Georgina's Restaurant on Friday, November 9. The evening included a variety of red and white wines, delicious hors d'oeuvres and other appetizers, assorted cookies, pies, tea and coffee. There was dancing to DJ "In the Groove". It was a great evening for parishioners to get together, and a nice way for one to meet other parishioners that may have been just a familiar face at Mass. For the new year, the social committee is planning a family bowling night and at a later date a pre-game picnic at a Connecticut Defenders baseball game at Dodd Stadium in Norwich.

Take a trip to St. Bart's website at www.stbartparish.org which now features a new page that covers happenings of the 50th anniversary. Webmaster John Mutchek does an excellent job of keeping the page current to reflect upcoming events. The fun has just begun! Let's make this jubilee as special as our parish family!!!

THE PIGGOTT FAMILY - BUSY? YES- BUT...

"You can make time for the things you like to do."

By Bob Albert

The University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK) "...is a small campus at the top of Maine on the Canadian border and if you love fishing, hunting, winter sports, kayaking and biking, this is the place to be." (according to the UMFK website at www.umfk.maine.edu). It was also the place to be for David and Kathy Piggott; it was at UMFK that David and Kathy met. Kathy, born and raised in Madawaska, ME – not far from Fort Kent - graduated from UMFK with a BS degree in behavioral science. Born in Syracuse, NY, David grew up in East Harford and Wethersfield before graduating from UMFK with a BA in history. The college sweethearts, married in 1987 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Madawaska, moved to Manchester the following year and become parishioners of St. Bart's. Kathy and David have four children: Anna, a junior at Manchester High School and recently confirmed in October; Josh, a sophomore at Manchester High School; Sarah, a sixth grade student at Bowers School; and Nick, who is in the second grade at Bowers School.

After graduating from UMFK, both Kathy and David began working for MARCH, Inc. of Manchester, a private, non-profit agency providing support services to citizens who have developmental disabilities and their families. Kathy worked as a residential manager for MARCH and then left to raise a family. Since 2006 she has been assisting Vicky Rispoli in St. Bart's Youth Ministry office. David now works with Oak Hill, a residential and occupational facility that is the largest non-profit private provider of services for people with disabilities in Connecticut. He is a supervisor for five Oak Hill sites in northern Connecticut.

Being active in parish life at St. Bart's is key to all the members of the

Piggott family. In the past Kathy has sung with the choir, and for the past three years she has been directing the vacation bible camp along with Debi Ashmead. This year over forty children attended the camp in August (great job, Kathy and Debi!). Kathy still teaches a CCD class for second graders, who will be receiving First Holy Communion in May. This marks her fifth continuous year as a religious education teacher. David began working with ninth grade Confirmation candidates last year and has continued with that same group of students now in the tenth grade. Finding some "free time" on his hands, he also volunteered to teach a fourth grade class this fall. Following the lead of mom and dad, the younger Piggotts are involved in many activities at St. Bart's. Anna, a peer minister in the youth program, helps a teacher in a CCD class. She spent part of this past summer on the youth mission trip to New Mexico. Josh is a second year Confirmation candidate and also assists in a CCD kindergarten class. He also spent part of this summer on the youth mission trip. He also volunteers as a camp counselor at the Lutz Nature Center in Manchester. Sarah, following the example of her two older siblings, has helped with vacation bible camp for the last three years. She is also an altar server. Although only in the second grade, Nick enjoys going to church and looks forward to attending the adoration service conducted by the R.O.C.K. group on the third Friday of each month at St. Bart's (at 7:15 p.m.).

A busy family? Busy people? You bet – but somehow they make time for the important things in life - in spite of a busy schedule. It's best explained in the words of Kathy and David: "We just do *stuff* and help where needed. Share what we have. We all have busy schedules, and we can justify not doing things. But all of us just need to step

up. *You can make time for the things you like to do.*"

David relates an interesting discussion on going to church that he had with a group of youngsters: "Out of nine kids, only three go to church on a regular basis. I reminded the kids that God is asking for *only* one hour out of the 168 (24 hrs for 7 days) hours in a week. I then asked 'Is He asking that much from us?' and left it at that for them to ponder – hopefully with their parents."

Kathy and David insist that there is nothing special about them – that they are just regular people who make faith a priority and do it as a family. Kathy says, "We have four kids and schools and sports. Granted, it's not easy, but if it's important, it can be done. You have to make choices. Faith doesn't happen over night – it's a process and provides the kids with a good foundation for life."

Perhaps Anna said it best about her experiences at St. Bart's: "It's okay to have fun at church!!" *That seems to sum it up.*

"You can make time for the things you like to do."

STEWARDSHIP:

The Catholic Way of Life

By Ed Rowe

On the weekend of September 29 & 30, 2007, St. Bart's held its stewardship fair in Father Hussey Hall. The fair, which occurs every two years, is an outgrowth of a 1999 Archdiocese initiative that each parish have a formal program to promote stewardship. But, just what is stewardship? According to the late Archbishop Thomas Murphy of Seattle, "Stewardship is the ability to share one's gifts of life, time, talents, and resources with others with no strings attached and no conditions."

The St. Bart's fair was held after each of the weekend Masses to apprise parishioners of the many opportunities at St. Bart's to give of their *time*, *talent*, and *treasure* to God. Many of the parish ministries were represented with information and volunteers to discuss the goals of the ministries and answer questions. In our busy world, one who joins a ministry must make a concerted effort to find the *time* to commit to the ministry. Recognizing that all gifts – be it a skill, trade or passion - come from God, one can use this *talent* in a most productive way. Finally, one can make a financial contribution, the *treasure*, to the parish.

Paul Boiano, the stewardship co-coordinator for St. Bart's, would like to inform readers that while stewardship fairs happen only every two years, stewardship is an ongoing process. Should you like to sign up for a ministry, you may leave a message for Paul in the parish office. Although there are many ministries at St. Bart's, Paul broke them down into six categories: administrative (e.g. finance council and the council of ministries), liturgical (e.g. choir and altar servers), educational (e.g. religious education and

A letter from the editor..

Dear Bart's Herald Reader,

According to the feedback that we have received from you, a feature story about a St. Bartholomew family or individual is one of the more interesting types of articles that is published in Bart's Herald. Just as in a family, our parish family shares in the joys and successes that a family member experiences. In sharing an individual's or family's story, we learn how one lives the faith. Many times this is an inspirational story that touches each of us – for the better! For those whose stories have been told in Bart's Herald we thank you for inspiring all of us to do better. Peace.

Bob Albert, Editor

Ps: please contact me through the parish office to tell me about an individual or family that we should include in Bart's Herald, even yourself.

youth ministry), outreach (e.g. MACC and Haiti), spiritual growth (e.g. small church communities) and social (e.g. donut Sundays and children's parties). (Please visit St. Bart's website at www.stbartparish.org for a comprehensive list of ministries).

At this year's stewardship fair, over a hundred people visited Father Hussey Hall after the three Masses. Hopefully, this year's fair has helped some parishioners find a suitable opportunity to practice stewardship in a parish ministry. As has often been said, "Stewardship is the Catholic way of life".

Saint Bartholomew Church
45 Ludlow Street
Manchester, CT 06040-4542

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
MANCHESTER, CT
06040
PERMIT NO. 301