

BART'S HERALD

, Manchester, CT 06040

June 2010

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PASTOR'S CORNER

By Father Stephen Sledesky



In this season of First Communions and as we celebrate the great feast of The Body and Blood of Christ (formerly know as Corpus Christi), it is appropriate to take time to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives as Catholics and the reverence and devotion we give to Christ present in this special way. The Eucharist – both the celebration and communion itself – is the source and summit of our lives as Catholics.

In the celebration of the Eucharist we come together to offer thanks and praise to God, to be nourished by His life-giving Word and to share the meal that Jesus left us as an everlasting remembrance of Him.

While we share many things in common with other Christians, including very similar worship styles, our belief that Jesus becomes truly present for us under the signs of bread and wine gives us our distinct identity as Catholics. In our tradition this is known as “transubstantiation.” Retaining their outward appearance, the bread and wine are substantially changed into the very Body and Blood of Christ during the consecration at Mass. Since they are no longer ordinary food and drink but the true presence of Jesus, it is important for us to be attentive to the way we treat these elements. Here are a few tips in that regard:

- ✠ When approaching the minister of communion, we make a sign of reverence in the form of a slight bow of the head (it is not necessary to genuflect, make the sign of the cross or perform other gestures).
- ✠ To receive the Body of Christ in the hand, we place the hand we eat with under our other hand to form a “throne.” As we receive the consecrated host, the minister says: “The Body of Christ” and we make our response of faith: “Amen!” We step briefly to the side, pick up the host with our “eating” hand and place it on our tongue before moving on.
- ✠ To receive the Body of Christ on the tongue, we again respond with “Amen!” when the minister says, “The Body of Christ.” Then we simply open our mouth and extend the tongue about halfway until the minister places the host on our tongue.
- ✠ To receive the Precious Blood of Christ, the minister will present the cup to us and say, “The Blood of Christ.” We again respond in faith, “Amen!” and take the cup from the minister into our own hands, receive a small sip, then return the cup to the minister, who wipes it and turns it before giving it to the next communicant. To avoid spilling the Precious Blood the minister will not hold the cup for us, nor is it permissible to dip the host in the Precious Blood.
- ✠ While all of this is happening, we are united in one voice as we sing a communion song to reinforce the understanding that in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ we are becoming one body in Christ. After the song is complete, we take a few quiet moments in prayer to thank Jesus for His presence with us and within us.
- ✠ Following communion, the remaining Precious Blood is consumed by the priest, deacon and/or ministers and the remaining hosts are stored in the tabernacle, which we honor by genuflection (bending the right knee) whenever we pass in front of it.

Father Stephen

FULL-CIRCLE LIFE MINISTRY - new to St. Bart's

By Jen Arel

A new ministry has formed at St. Bartholomew's Church - the Full-Circle Life Ministry. The name reflects that God is the author of life from the beginning to the natural end. Maureen Sullivan and I, Jennifer Arel, have talked about our passion for this area many times over the past few years. When Father Stephen Sledesky came to our parish, I talked with him about it, and he asked if we had a coordinator at St. Bart's. We did not. I went home and called Maureen and asked if the two of us could take this on. She bellowed a resounding, “Yes!” Many people think of the abortion controversy when discussing pro-life issues. But really, life issues span so many more areas. Some are: euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, in-vitro fertilization, natural family planning and capital punishment, just to name a few. We hope this Ministry will not only help support pro-life groups such as Birthright and St. Gerard's Life Center but also educate the parish on what the church REALLY teaches about all of these areas. Although these topics can be very controversial and even upsetting to some, we hope to address them in a loving manner and allow everyone to understand the beauty behind the church's teaching. Maureen and I hope to learn through this process as much as anyone else. Some of our thoughts are to provide a link on the church's homepage, provide pamphlets, write articles and put meditations into the bulletin as well as to mention ways for everyone in the community to be involved on these issues. If you feel yourself asking God, “Is it I, Lord?” won't you please join us by contacting the parish office at 860-646-1613.

PARENTING OUR CHILDREN IN THE YOUNG ADULT YEARS

By Jen Arel

This is the final issue of the series on parenting our children in hopes that they keep their faith as adults. Once our children are finished with their K-12 education, they enter those young adult years. They will either go on to college or they will enter the work force. Is our job done? In some ways, yes. But perhaps there are a few things we can still think about to try and guide them. My oldest is a freshman in college this year so, as always, I must add the disclaimer that I am not an expert here. Like everyone else, I can only do my best and leave my children in the hands of Almighty God.

So, if your child chooses to go on to college after high school, what can be your role in helping him or her keep the faith? Don't forget, this phase is still a formative one and it can be a phase that launches one to ultimately owning or possibly disowning the faith. Statistics today show that a vast majority of college students, crossing all lines of denomination, will have their faith seriously challenged during the college years. Are there ways to minimize this? Well, I do know some who claim that allowing their children to commute to a college has helped with this issue. There are others who feel very orthodox Catholic/Christian schools help to complete their child's faith formation. But, there are many situations where these options aren't viable – the main reasons being if your child's choice of study doesn't exist in these forums or if a fantastic scholarship is available elsewhere. So, what's the next thing for which to search? If there are schools with active Catholic Campus Ministries or Newman Centers (Catholic campus organizations), this would be a viable choice. FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) is a growing group on campuses that says that it's vital to get your son/daughter involved in these Catholic groups right from the get-go so that friendships form from within these groups. They say that if you wait even a few weeks into the beginning of freshman year, your ability to later attract these students diminishes almost to the point of no return.

What if young adults choose to enter the work force after high school? Well, they will need to depend upon their local church to provide them with avenues in which to grow. Many young adults have found this to be a big hole that currently exists in our Catholic Church. This hole also affects the students who have graduated from college and are entering the workforce as young adults. Outside of CCD and RCIA, there hasn't been much

available to reach this age group. However, as of late, Catholic Churches are trying to meet this need. St. James Church in Manchester offers a group called, "The Catholic Underground", which targets young adults, aged 18-30. It not only allows for a social avenue to form friendships but it also gives a forum in which to grow in one's faith. I think it's important to find these connections within our churches. If young adults do not find a way to connect to a local church, they run the risk of leaving the church altogether. The world and all of its glitter and demands fill this hole with, in the end, lots of busyness and emptiness.

So what happens when as a parent, you've done all that you feel you could and your child still has left the faith? A woman I know told me her story: "I grew up with awesome parents and a beautiful Catholic upbringing. There was nothing more that my parents could have done for me. I got caught up with the wrong crowd after high school and started drinking and doing drugs. I quit going to church. I started sleeping around. I moved out of the house ... became pregnant at 19 and had to move back home. At that point in my life, I had tried to sever ties with my parents. Moving back home was the hardest thing I ever had to do... no, telling them I was pregnant was the hardest." She goes on to say that her mother did not yell or scold but was very quiet. Her relationship with her father had been dead. When she told him she was pregnant, "He didn't say a word but walked over to me and held me for what seemed like hours then said, 'I love you and we'll get through this.' And we did." There is only so much one can do to raise good, faithful, Catholic children. As I've tried to state in all of my articles, there are NO guarantees. You must give them a strong, Catholic foundation, pray a lot, and seek counsel. If you do that, they still may stray and it's really not your fault. It's their choice through the gift of free will. They can choose to own this faith we have tried to share with them or they can choose to walk away from it. I'm starting to see that it's what you do AFTER they possibly fall that counts. For a parent who loves the Lord and His Church, there must be little that is more painful than to watch a child walk away. At that point, we are to continue to live our lives faithfully, pray and be ready with open arms like the Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son, to forgive our children and receive them back into our homes and hopefully our church.

RACHEL'S PRESENT - SERVING IN HAITI

"What do you want for graduation?"

By Bob Albert

"I'd like a trip to Haiti!"

Sound unusual? Maybe, and maybe not – if you know the people involved – the Wawzynieckis.

On May 15, 2010 Rachel Wawzyniecki received her Masters in Social Work (MSW) from Springfield College in Springfield, MA. But at the beginning of May, she had received a graduation and belated birthday present from her parents, Stefan and Patti Wawzyniecki. Accompanied by Stefan, she had flown to Haiti for a week of service to the people of Haiti at the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) in Jérémie, Haiti. But, serving others is nothing new to Rachel.

Born in Manchester, Rachel grew up in Vernon, graduated from Rockville High School and earned two BS degrees from the University of Connecticut – one in Psychology and the other in Family Studies, before earning her MSW. Along the way, she served St. Bart's as an altar server, a peer minister in St. Bart's Youth Ministry (YM) program and as a retreat leader for YM. It was in YM that she had her first exposure in serving others on mission trips to Worcester, MA, Washington DC and Tijuana, Mexico. The Tijuana mission, where she worked in a soup kitchen, serving people who had walked many miles – days in some cases – to eat and receive food supplies, brings back strong memories. As was the custom, she and her friends left their sneakers for others when they returned home – literally – with the clothes on their backs and flip-flops on their feet. This exposure to poverty left her with a strong motivation to serve others, just as Jesus commanded us. While at UConn, this thirst for service led her to work with the people of New Orleans recovering from the destruction of hurricane Katrina as part of an alternative spring break program provided by the university.

While in Haiti, Rachel worked with an optometrist from Florida who had been to Haiti several times. At HHF's Center of Hope in Jérémie, Rachel and the optometrist treated over 450 patients for eye problems over a two-day period. Many of these patients were children. Rachel estimates that over 25 percent of the patients suffer from glaucoma and that damage from the sun and malnutrition are the leading causes of eye diseases in Haiti. She says that a common complaint heard was: "I'm blind, everything looks blurry" – a problem that the optometrist was able to alleviate with a prescription for medicine and a pair of glasses.

Rachel then journeyed away from the Center of Hope to serve for two days in a rural village working with mothers and children, specifically educating mothers in personal hygiene for themselves and their children. (It may seem

rather elementary to us but just imagine how *you* would be able to practice hygiene without soap, water – no hot water, maybe just a little tepid water from a river – and without cloths to wash and dry yourself.) In the village, Rachel observed, "Almost all the kids were showing the effects of malnutrition and starvation."

This year's earthquake has hit Haiti hard and depleted much of HHF's resources. Survivors of the quake, including many orphans, have migrated from hard-hit Port-Au-Prince to the Jérémie area and have been taken in by local families. In many cases this has doubled the number of mouths to feed from six to twelve in a single household. Rachel tells the story of a young 22-year old man who was trapped in his home after the earthquake, which killed his parents. His rescuer – his brother – freed him by using a hammer to smash his leg so that he could be pulled from the wreckage. Unfortunately, his leg was destroyed in the rescue. But, here is just one example of where HHF provides hope – HHF is equipping the man with an artificial leg. He now has a future!

And now, what of Rachel's future? She is fresh from an internship at Manchester Memorial Hospital, where she has accepted a position as a clinical social worker. She would love to return to serve the people of Haiti in the future but says, "Volunteering costs money – for transportation and living." Some day she will return! Rachel is very appreciative to her parents and friends for their support, and particularly to her dad for his support during the trip.

Perhaps, the most insightful comment Rachel made during the interview with *Bart's Herald* was: "Why me? Why was I fortunate enough to be born and live in the United States, a land of plenty when compared with Haiti?" Maybe, we should all ask ourselves that question and discern what is God asking of us.

Please consider making a donation to HHF to help the people of Haiti. More information can be found at the Haitian Health Foundation website: www.haitianhealthfoundation.org.

JOURNEY AND ADORATION - *Two Unique Lenten Series*

By Harry Robinson

During Lent the parish offered two unique programs – *Journey with Christ to Calvary* and *Adoration of the Cross*. The programs helped participants to look and listen thoughtfully, to read Scripture carefully, and to see the relevance of Scripture to their daily lives in 2010.

The *Journey with Christ to Calvary*, a five-session program, evolved from the Core Team of the Small Church Communities – Bob Albert, Paul Boiano, Bob Kostek, Ann Nevelos, Sandra Ouellette and Madeleine Robinson – and their wanting to offer something special for Lent. This team planned the details of each of the five one-hour Tuesday evening sessions, focusing on discussion of five Stations of the Cross. A team member researched a Station; then the team discussed, modified and approved the format and substance of each session. Participants formed three groups, and, by choice, the groups varied from week to week. Because the Core Team had planned the format and content and had agreed on how to lead each session, they were true facilitators. The sessions worked in this order: a gathering comment, a prayer, a hymn (“Were You There” with verses appropriate to the Station being discussed), a commentary, a discussion, and a chant (“Jesus, Remember Me”). The meetings were relaxed and thought provoking.

The six one-hour evenings of *Adoration of the Cross* were led by Father Marcin Pluciennik, with three of the hours held at St. Bridget’s and three at St. Bart’s. At St. Bart’s parishioners entered the church into semi-darkness, the major lighting being a rich display of votive candles spread closely together across the floor of the sanctuary so that the congregation became silhouettes and seekers of comfort in the candles, symbols of respect. Displayed at the front of the church on both sides of the cross and clearly visible to the congregation were two large screens with passages from the night’s chosen scriptures. Father Marcin greeted the participants and proceeded to the center aisle where he prayed aloud his thanks to God, making reference to the readings of that hour. He paused long and thoughtfully to allow for private worship. The silences were moving and soul-stirring. At each session a lector read Scripture and musicians sang, accompanied by organ or piano. The last of the six hours was a fitting ending to the *Adoration of the Cross*: a Mass celebrated by Father Stephen Sledesky and assisted by Father Marcin. For the Prayers of the Faithful Father Stephen welcomed all participants who wished to come forward to offer a prayer and to speak through a special microphone. The formal part of the evening having ended, a youth group performed a mystifying and fascinating multi-media piece on spiritual love. As they had at the end of each hour, the congregation moved one by one in an informal recessional to the center of the sanctuary, touched a Bible or picked up a prayer card, and quietly left the church.

Thank you to all who participated in the two Lenten series, both the creators of the programs and parishioners who attended. You served our parish well. You prepared us for Holy Week by changing the tone of the day and the season. The programs settled the issue of what to GIVE rather than give up for Lent: time to reflect on Jesus in our lives and on what life is all about.

Update on Council of Ministries’ Survey

By John Garoppolo

The Council of Ministries, responsible for shaping the parish vision, recently surveyed parishioners using a survey form that was left in the pews and appeared on the website. The survey asked: “what is good about the parish and we should keep” and “what can we add or improve on for the future”. The Council compiled and categorized the results. Among the strengths that were mentioned were: our inspiring liturgies, excellent youth ministry and religious education programs, a community spirit, our outreach to MACC and Haiti, a friendly atmosphere and the seasonal sharing program.

The three most frequently mentioned areas that parishioners felt would make us better were adult social activities, young adult activities and adult education.

✠ Suggestions for adult social activities included game nights, dances, activities for widows and/or widowers, a service project followed by a food event, a visit to a Catholic shrine and socializing after Mass. The fall picnic was discussed at some length, and plans are underway to hold it jointly with St. Bridget Parish at Northwest Park in Manchester on Sunday, September 26. The thought is to begin with an outdoor Mass, followed by food and drink and the socializing of the two parishes with games and activities for adults and youth. The Council sees this as a great opportunity for both parishes to socialize together. A team made up of members of both parishes is needed to organize the event.

POSITIVE ENERGY ELECTRICITY AND ONLINE GIVING

St. Bartholomew's Parish Makes Available Two New Programs

By Harry Robinson

POSITIVE ENERGY is available to all homeowners and businesses. This program lowers your expenses for electricity. **You can save 10-20% on your monthly bill.** CL&P (or other electricity provider) will continue to deliver the electricity services that you now have. You will continue to be billed by CL&P but your rate will be lower. In addition, Positive Energy has made it possible for the parish to receive a donation from them for each parishioner enrolled in the program through the parish. The company will donate \$1.00 for each enrollee and \$1.00 per 1000 kwh per user each month. St. Bart's Parish has enrolled both the church and rectory in this program and has been receiving the benefit of lower rates for several months. You have two ways of enrolling in this program, either online or completing a paper form to fax or mail. For online enrollment, go to the parish website, www.stbartparish.org, or go directly to this enrollment site, www.getpositiveenergy.com/stbart. Paper forms and help are available through the parish office.

ONLINE GIVING is a program whereby parishioners make their contributions online instead of using the envelope system. This program also has benefits for parishioners and the parish. Parishioners will have no need for writing checks and will receive notification of each donation via email. You can easily change your contribution amount or payment method at any time. There will be no need to share confidential credit card or bank account information with parish staff. You enter it directly into the Online Giving secure site. More information is available from the parish office or website about the security of the site. Cards that say "I've given online" are available at the entrances of the church for you to drop in the collection basket if you wish. They are used over and over again, so it helps our parish in our "going green" effort.

Online giving will also benefit the parish in many ways: by eliminating check processing fees, mailing costs, increasing regular giving with recurring contributions, providing electronic donation summary for tax purposes, reaching more givers, accommodating special parish collections and missions, eliminating parish staff's concerns regarding security of sensitive data, allowing staff to focus on parish ministries and activities rather than on envelopes and contribution recording. Of course, you may always give in the traditional way, receiving a packet of envelopes bi-monthly. That is always acceptable.

To sign up for Online Giving, go to St. Bart's website, www.stbartparish.org, and follow the instructions for Online Giving. You will be taken to the Online Giving website where you will find the regular offertory and also all of the collections, both Archdiocesan and parish, for the entire year, as well as any memorial donations you wish to make or to pay for Mass Intentions. You are able to plan ahead and indicate the date that you wish to contribute. You have the option of recurring or one-time donations. Your participation in these programs will be helpful to all. It might also be fun to save money and to do something traditional in a new way. We hope that you will take advantage of these money saving programs.

Update on Council of Ministries' Survey *(continued from page 4)*

- ✚ Another area discussed for improvement was young adult activities. Activities would be geared for people between college age and the mid-thirties. The Council is working on some specific parish-driven ideas.
- ✚ The third area, adult education, included subjects such as Bible study classes, Bible themes, prayer, Catholic teachings and parent and teen support discussion groups. We are fortunate to have talented staff and parishioners who could organize and lead such programs. For instance, a few parishioners have completed the Catholic Biblical School and are certified to lead Catholic Bible Study groups.

To help flesh out the ideas expressed in these surveys, the Council decided to invite parish members to go to Father Hussey Hall after Mass on a Saturday and Sunday for a social hour to offer more specific suggestions in one or all of these three areas. Parishioners interested in serving on a committee could leave their name and contact information. The suggestions are displayed in the hallway near the parish office. Those who were not able to offer suggestions after Mass that day are encouraged to write them on the posted sheets. The Council will review them and make decisions regarding implementation. The Council is most grateful for all of the suggestions of parishioners and looks forward to the work ahead.

Sharing An Amazing Breakfast!

By Debi Ashmead

Who would want to get out of a warm cozy bed at 7 a.m. on a windy, cold and wet Saturday morning? Over twenty-five Junior Youth Group (JYG) members did! It started out as a cold, dreary rainy morning, but do you think these sixth, seventh and eighth graders dragged themselves into St. Bart's to serve our seniors breakfast? NO! They came in with smiles on their faces and were eager to spend time and serve their parish family members; this was truly an amazing day. Every year, Youth Ministry serves breakfast to our seniors to thank them for all their support of the youth ministry program all year long. This was the first year that the JYG served for youth ministry, and the junior youth enjoyed it so much that they would like to do it again or do a dinner and game night.



The youth graciously accepted their assignments - folding napkins, making cards, preparing a menu board and setting tables. They practiced their duties with eagerness waiting for their *special guests* to arrive. Several began kitchen duties by making coffee, beating eggs, warming food and preparing for a special feast. After much anticipation and preparation, their guests arrived. As the guests pulled into the parking lot, a youth ran outside to eagerly hold an umbrella and escort them into the church. At the door, our friendly greeters welcomed the guests for breakfast and our special coat-checkers took their wet coats. Then, friendly hostesses seated the guests, and awesome beverage-girls served drinks - coffee, tea and juice. All volunteers wore tie-dye shirts that were made at the first youth group meeting in October to symbolize community. The guests enjoyed beautiful jazz music, played by a member of our junior youth group, Jeremy Peck; tables were dressed beautifully with cotton and flowers. Several youth sat at each table to visit with our guests. Soon the tables were full, and the youth began the breakfast with a special prayer and then served a delicious breakfast that featured eggs, sausage, muffins, bagels, fruit cup and hash browns.

Thank you to all who participated in this beautiful occasion, whether it be a donation of food or your time during the morning. And, we hope all seniors will accept our invitation for breakfast next time.

HIGH SEAS ADVENTURE VBC - August 9-13

By Debi Ashmead

This year's **Vacation Bible Camp (VBC)** is already off to an exciting start where the children will be exploring the Bible through the Acts of the Apostles. Gone are the learning books; this year the kids will have *iOpeners* that create a new interactive way of communicating with their crew leaders and crew members. Mary Falotico, director of VBC, says, "It is a wonderful teaching method to take home and talk to other family members each day." And new this year - due to the large number of younger children - VBC is creating a room for kindergarteners in addition to the pre-kindergartener room that has been offered in the past. We have noticed over the past few years that the smaller, structured environment works just as well for most children in the kindergartener group as it does for pre-k.



One of the most exciting aspects of VBC is the increasing number of children that return every year, either as a participant or volunteer. As Mary says, "It is so heart warming to see the young faces of children each morning so excited about the camp, and I look forward to another successful year." She continues, "The excitement continues to grow every year with so many volunteers participating and eager to do whatever it takes to make VBC at St. Bart's successful. It is a true testament to the children when at the end of last year's program, many came up to me and thanked me and wanted to know if they could be part of the program next year."

One of the biggest challenges VBC continues to face as it grows over the years is its need for more floor space. When VBC started back up several years ago, thirty-three children were enrolled; last year eighty-one kids were enrolled. As enrollments increase each year in addition to the dozens of volunteers required, adequate space becomes necessary to keep the program running. With the linkage of St. Bart's and St. Bridget's, the planning committee considered holding VBC at St. Bridget's since that facility is bigger. Since the early registration was showing high numbers, there was concern about exceeding the capacity of St. Bart's. Mary Falotico had seen few in the registration from St. Bridget's and made the decision to keep the program at St. Bart's. To accommodate the change, the start and end of the daily program will be held outside. This decision will be tested if the week encounters bad weather, but Mary is confident that the success and excitement the children receive from this program will far outweigh any weather conditions.



MEET CHRIS AND ANTHONY WARCHUT

And the Way They See Social Activities at St. Bart's

By Harry Robinson



St. Bart's is lucky to have parishioners such as Chris and Anthony Warchut. Chris and Tony have been members of St. Bartholomew Church for twenty years and are well known in the parish community, their names being associated with social activities. In an interview Chris and Tony provided many insights into what they do in their daily lives and in their ministry.

When Chris said that she is an accountant, I said you must be busy at income tax time. She replied, "No, I'm an accountant at Connecticut Children's Medical Center" whose logo is "Giving Children the Care They Deserve." According to a Medical Center statement, the Center "gives quality care to children and families through ten affiliated community hospitals and sixteen practice locations." Tony is a consultant at PAREXEL, a leading global biopharmaceutical service provider, where he is a consultant on pharmaceuticals, medical devices and biotechnology. One of the company's missions is to bring new treatments and cures to patients in need. The Warchuts have two adult children: Katie, a reporter and features writer for the *New London Day*, and Andrew, a teacher of Latin in Rutherford, New Jersey. In a sort of by-the-way manner, Tony said, "We have a dog" and Chris volunteered the name - Banner. When asked what kind of dog Banner is, Tony said "Hungarian Vizsla" and quickly retrieved from his cell phone (or other hi-tech mechanism) a photograph of a beautiful pet that looked like a show dog. Banner weighs about fifty pounds and in the photograph his fur looks golden light tan.

The main focus of the interview was the Warchuts' connection with adult social activities at St. Bart's. Chris and Tony wrestled a while to decide what their title was with regard to the adult social committee. Tony chose the word *coordinators*, an apt word for how they look at and work in the committee. Chris listed the names of committee members: Joe and Loretta Pazdan, Linda and Bob Kostek, Dianne McPherson, Al and Margret Dumas and Evan Shaw-Mumford. All the committee members also love participating in the social life of St. Bart's. The Warchuts see them as wonderful people to work with and to work for. Several social activities were mentioned, like the wine-tasting get-together before St. Bart's fiftieth anniversary and the two baseball games at Dodd Stadium in Norwich. Chris said that the parish picnic is their Big Project. We reminisced about the picnics – family, friends, lots of food, ice cream and other desserts, children playing, great conversations. They were uncertain about specific plans for this year's picnic since it will be combined with St. Bridget's, but they are looking forward to planning the event.

As we talked, Chris wanted to clarify how they were involved in various activities. She spoke about the recent Ladies' Tea and how successful that was, so successful that they had to turn away people who wanted tickets. Although Chris helped with the planning, the idea originated with Eleanor Hoyng, the catalyst for the Ladies' Tea, and a model of a parishioner thinking of an idea, talking about it one-on-one with friends and going forward with the idea. Chris' attitude reveals that the social committee members are truly coordinators and that ideas and activities are not determined at the top. Tony also acknowledged that some ideas and plans do not work out, but they are not discouraged by that, because most people can understand that for various reasons plans do not always work out. After all, parishioners recognize that they cannot do everything but can do something. At the same time, he acknowledged that the parishioners are enthusiastic and always look forward to social events.

Of course, the Warchuts have their own special activities, and Chris and Tony helped each other name some of these activities. Both like to cook. Chris likes to sew. Tony likes hunting and fishing and belongs to the Glastonbury Sportsmans Association. They attend The Little Theatre of Manchester and love gardening, especially growing veggies. In fact, both are involved with St. Bart's Gardening Committee.

From what has been said above, one may conclude that the Warchuts are by no means seekers of the limelight but are giving people, realistic, animal and plant loving, modest, appreciative of other people, and thoughtful in their approach to work. Furthermore, they are seekers of excellence. They enjoy seeing people happy. Chris and Tony love St. Bart's and praise the members for their support. They want people to keep talking and to let their ideas grow. Parishioners are encouraged to suggest their ideas about adult social activities to the Social Activities Committee or to members of the Council of Ministries.

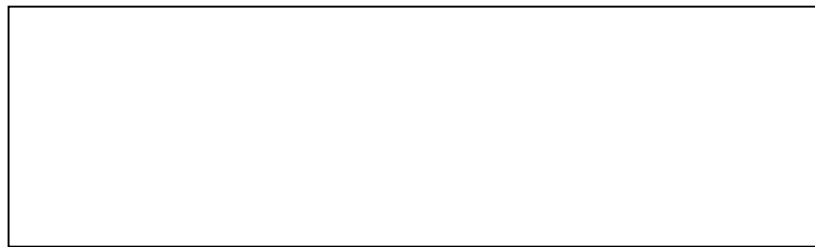
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN

By John Garoppolo

The saying goes, "you learn something new everyday" and so I did when I recently talked with Denise Bartlett, Director of Religious Education. Many are familiar with the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), but did you know that

there is a complimentary program for children? The Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) is not a new program; it has been around for a while and is intended for children with little or no formal religious education or those converting from a different faith tradition. RCIC students are given a text, *One Faith, One Lord*, which is a study of basic Catholic faith, published by Sadlier. Students also receive a Bible for young Catholics that contains explanations of scripture, stories, facts and illustrations. Denise is very impressed with these publications and the helpful recommendations provided in the teacher's guide.

This year Denise worked with four students who met with her every Monday evening from 6-6:45 in the church library. They started each session with a prayer, learned the Rosary and enjoyed saying it. Denise has an assortment of prayer cards and allowed the students to choose one or more for themselves. Two of her students are brothers, Christian and Devon Barry. Christian, a sophomore at Rockville High School, is in the first year of a two-year Confirmation program at St. Bart's that meets once a month on Sunday evening for three hours. He will be confirmed in 2011. Devon is a seventh grade student at Vernon Middle School and attended seventh grade religious education classes at St. Bart's. Taylor Kerr, a sixth grader from Bolton, also attended religious education classes here. The fourth student is Naomi Jones, ten year-old from Springfield, MA. Naomi's mom brought her to Manchester for the class every Monday and then enjoyed a visit with her mother (Naomi's grandmother) up the hill on Dale Road until they returned once again to Springfield. All four students received their First Communion at this year's Easter Vigil Mass. Taylor's mom also received her First Communion and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil after converting from a different faith.

Regular religious education classes continued for another two weeks beyond the RCIC classes, but Christian, Devon and Taylor chose to meet on Mondays even though their RCIC classes were officially over. Denise believes that this is the Holy Spirit at work. St. Bart's can certainly be proud of the religious education program under the inspired direction of Denise Bartlett. *Now, you have learned something new today, too!*