



St. Victoria
 Parish Family
 8228 Victoria Drive
 Victoria, Minnesota 55386
 952-443-2661
 www.stvictoria.net

A Year in Review at St. Victoria

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Please note: Sunset Fest photos originally on page 5 can be viewed on the website.

Did You Know . . .

- That the Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental provider of social services in the United States?
- Agencies in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis provide:
 - ~ Nearly 3 million meals each year.
 - ~5,000 places for homeless people to sleep.
 - ~2,000 low-income housing units
 - ~A home for troubled children.

From The Front Pew



I can't believe that it has been a year since I wrote about my

upcoming Sabbatical in this column and then left you in the capable hands of Fr. Bob Hazel. And, what a year it has been!

As I told you, my sabbatical was all I had hoped it would be – an opportunity to spend quality time with a group of brother priests – learning, discerning and sharing – everything from theology to the

September 13 was a history-making day at St. Victoria. Mike and Michelle Goin (center) became our 1,000th St. Victoria Registered Household. With them, along with Fr. Bob, is Loretta Kocka. In 2005, we asked parishioners to guess the date when we would reach the magic 1,000 and Loretta guessed September 15, 2008.

business of running a parish.

Immediately upon my return, I did something I had thought about for sometime. I spent a night in a homeless shelter for men. Not as Fr. Bob – but the same as any person without food and shelter. It was a very moving experience!

I also spent time organizing my files and papers – something I suppose we all need to do from time to time. That did mean going through my many three-ring binders (some of you know what I mean by “many”).

As I returned to “active”

duty, I was able to devote some time to enhancing and strengthening existing ministries like our mentor couples – parishioners who work with our engaged couples helping to prepare them for marriage – and increasing awareness of our Eucharistic Adoration initiative.

Throughout the year, we have made progress on our Strategic Goals (see story page 4) and we completed our exhaustive Census project (also on page 4). We initiated Nazareth Dinners for our First Communion families and introduced

Continued on page 11.



Find Peace and Quiet With Time Before Jesus

Do you sometimes feel the need to “unplug” and get away from cell phones, iPods and all those other distractions?

We have a perfect solution here at St. Victoria. Every Thursday we have our Eucharistic Adoration that starts right after our 8 a.m. Mass and concludes at 8 p.m. We call it our “Thursday Prayer Vigil” and we’ve been quietly doing this for the last 11 years. “In my opinion, it is one of the best-kept secrets at St. Victoria,” Fr. Bob said.

So how does it work? People sign up for half-hour time slots throughout the day. Others come as “walk-ons,” but they all have one thing in common – they come ready to unplug and sit in quiet before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Some pray the Rosary, others read from a prayer book or use scripture. Everyone is encouraged to spend a few minutes sitting in quiet doing nothing but listening for God.

“Is this a pious ‘Jesus and me’ thing? It could be, but if we really think about what Eucharist is,” Fr. Bob said, “it’s far from it.”

He continued, “there’s Christianity on its knees and there’s Christianity on its feet. The two are not unrelated – Eucharistic Adoration brings us to our knees and moves us to our feet. When we ‘reach out as the face and hands of Jesus,’ we do that on our feet and that eventually moves us back to our knees. And so we come full circle.”

What fruits come from Eucharistic Adoration? Often the changes are subtle. Sometimes people realize they look at things differently – they have a deeper commitment to Christ, a greater desire to serve, healings, spiritual and otherwise, and yes, even more vocations.

You can sign up at any time for

your own half-hour of quiet prayer before Jesus and the Blessed Sacrament. And because it can be difficult to always fulfill your commitment – life can get in the way – we encourage people to sign up with a prayer partner or even as a team. For more information or

to sign up for your special time, call Stella McKinney, Coordinator of this ministry at 470-6210.

Treat yourself to the delicious, unplugged quiet of prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In the pounding pace of today’s high-tech world, Jesus can be your rock.

Check Out the New St. Victoria Library

Have you been to the library recently? Our library right here at St. Victoria? Thanks to the hard work and generosity of



parishioners Mary Bishop, Carol Trantow and Marty Dentinger we have a beautifully appointed new library – named the Archbishop Harry Flynn Memorial Library – here at St. Victoria.

In the past, the Bride’s Room, just off the Fireside Room, has been used to store hymnals and other items when there were no weddings scheduled. Now that room has a new purpose. The addition of a wall of shelves, comfortable chairs and a table and reading light has turned this space into a beautiful library. In addition to providing a place for people to browse the book collection, it has made the room much nicer for our brides!

The job now is to stock the shelves with appropriate books. We are seeking donations of new and gently used books (or cash to purchase books) for the library. A Library Committee will review and catalog the books. The following categories have been chosen for the library:

- Grief and Loss
- Prayer and Spirituality
- Life Transitions
- Biographies
- Theology and Catholic Studies
- Christian Fiction

We are also collecting similarly themed books for children and teens.

You may drop books off either on the table in the library or in the parish office at any time. If the Library Committee determines that a contributed book is not appropriate for the library, it will be donated to the parish rummage sale in the spring or, if requested, returned to the donor.

While the library is still in its “infancy,” it’s sure to grow to become a very valuable resource for our parishioners. You may contact Mary Bishop, 443-2776, or Carol Trantow, 442-8744, for more information.

Join a 2009 Journey to the Holy Land

Deacon Ray Ortman and Fr. Bob Hazel are excited to announce that they will be hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2009. They invite all who can to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and to experience a profound transformation of spirit and renewal of life as the Bible comes alive. Please mark your calendars now for this adventure in faith. Details will follow at a later date. Contact Deacon Ray if you might be interested at 443-2661 Ext. 13.

What Constitutes Responsible Voting as a Catholic?

By Deacon Ray Ortman



Manners maven, Lizzie Post, recently offered this time-honored advice on the Tyra Banks Show: Don't

discuss religion or politics at the dinner table. Of course, Lizzie's never eaten at my home – if my wife and I couldn't talk about faith or politics we'd really be in a pickle. And God forbid that anyone should talk about both faith and religion in the same conversation.

Why, that's got to be unconstitutional! Right?

Something about the separation of Church and State, maybe?

No. The government may not be able to mix affairs of Church and State, but we as citizens of faith have the legal and moral right to allow our faith to inform our political conscience and to share both our faith and our politics (in love) with our fellow men and women.

In a 2007 publication entitled *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (the "Bishops") write that in the Catholic tradition, "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. This obligation is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do." In other words, we are encouraged to integrate faith into our worldview and into our whole lives, not just to confine faith to Sunday mornings (or for that matter confine politics just to the voting booth). If we compartmentalize our faith, it loses its vigor, we feel disjointed and our whole society suffers from the loss of the influence of Christian virtue and divine Truth. See Vatican Council II's *Declaration on Religious Liberty* ("society itself

may enjoy the benefits of justice and peace, which result from faithfulness to God and his holy will.")

The Bishops' treatise on *Faithful Citizenship* goes on to observe that a fundamental intersection between faith and citizenship occurs in the arena of morality: doing good and avoiding evil. The Church teaches, for example, that direct threats to the sanctity and dignity of human life must always be opposed, including for example, abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, genocide, torture, racism and targeting noncombatants in war or acts of terror. The Church also teaches that the dignity of human life requires that we care for the least of our brothers and sisters in need (such as the poor, the homeless, and strangers in our midst) and work to establish justice. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. And we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be.

As we head into the maelstrom of the political season, the Bishops' document on *Faithful Citizenship* counsels Catholic voters to "use the framework of Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues affecting human life and dignity as well as issues of justice and peace, and they should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance." In another document, entitled *Living the Gospel of Life*, the Bishops also teach that it is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest."

We are blessed to live in a country where we can think and speak freely.

We are commissioned by our baptismal call to bring God's love to the whole world and to build a world of respect for human life and dignity, where justice and peace prevail. All of us have an important role to play in this mission. Each of us has ears to hear and a voice to speak the truth. Each of us has hands to work and feet to travel the road that leads toward justice and peace. Ours are Christ's hands and His feet in the world. And although the road leading toward justice and peace may go through the ballot booth this November, it does not end there. That road ultimately leads to the Kingdom of God, where we are children and heirs of the King.

Until then, as we gather around the Table of the Lord, let us not be afraid to speak God's love and witness to God's Truth in our faith, in our politics, and in all aspects of our lives.

Join Us for TNE

This is an invitation to mark your 2009 calendars to join us for our TNE (The New Evangelization) Lenten Series. Our hope is that this will give you a "heads-up" for Lent and that you'll join us.



We gather in small groups to deepen our relationship with Jesus and one another through prayer, study and reflection.

Wherever you are in your Faith Journey, please consider joining us this coming Lent. (Ash Wednesday is February 25 and Easter is April 12 in 2009.)

Awake, Follow Me, Live in Me and Witness . . . All are welcome.

Update on Strategic Plans Underway at St. Victoria

Strategic plans are behind all well-run organizations – including churches – and St. Victoria is no exception.

“Nearly two years ago, we began a parish-wide strategic planning process as part of our 150th Anniversary,” explained Fr. Bob. This planning process included members of the Parish Council, the Finance Council, staff and parishioners at large all working with consultants well-versed in leading such endeavors. After months of intensive meetings and a great deal of hard work, the opportunity to weigh in on the planning process was offered to all interested parishioners.

Ultimately, ten strategic objectives were developed. Those objectives then became 32 strategic projects or “action steps” intended to proactively embed our vision for St. Victoria. They were introduced in the spring of 2007. Some are long-range projects such as growing our Parish Community Outreach Ministries (P-Com), offering service opportunities to both adults and youth, providing leadership development opportunities to parishioners or finding opportunities to host waffle or pancake breakfasts and fellowship after Sunday Masses several times each year.

Other projects on the list can be (or have been) completed in a relatively short period of time. No doubt the most important undertaking – and not one that was rushed by any means – was hiring a Director of Formational Ministries (Amy Kusber) and a dedicated Director of Youth Ministries (Ryan Heim). Other endeavors included installation of our electronic sign, introducing Nazareth Dinners for our First Communion families, development of the Archbishop Harry Flynn Memorial Library and offering

Spiritual Direction to our RCIA candidates and engaged couples planning to be married at St. Victoria.

Fr. Bob emphasized that teamwork has been key in implementing St. Victoria’s vision “We work as a team – me, the staff and countless volunteers. Most everything we want to do here requires a team effort and our planning process allows us to keep moving in a

synchronized manner. In other words, we are not just working ‘willy-nilly,’ but instead careful planning goes into each and everything we do – whether it is a new ministry, hiring a new staff member or purchasing something for the church,” Fr. Bob said.

He added that he will continue to keep the parish family posted as projects are completed and new projects are added to the list.

Understanding our Fiscal Year

St. Victoria operates financially on a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Therefore, the pledges made during our Annual Stewardship Drive also run on a fiscal year.

Our Annual Stewardship Drive asks you to pledge toward our operating budget, the expense of running the church that includes everything from utilities to books for Faith Formation. That is why in March or April each year we ask that you complete a pledge card for the upcoming fiscal year. With those pledges in mind, we can then plan and budget appropriately for the coming fiscal year.

You may also have made a New Church or Capital Campaign Pledge. This is entirely separate

from your Annual Stewardship Pledge. The official start date for Capital Campaign Pledges was July 1, 2006, also based on our fiscal year. (Many parishioners, especially newcomers, have pledged since that date.) This five-year campaign, culminating June 30, 2011, is intended to service and reduce the mortgage for our new church. Pledges can be paid monthly, quarterly or annually and may be paid off at any time.

If you have not made a Stewardship or Capital Campaign Pledge, you are always welcome to do so or you may make a contribution at any time. Your generosity is always appreciated!

Parish Census Project is Completed




The Census Project started last fall has been successfully completed.

Census forms were mailed to 963 households totaling 3,012 people. Our final tally, as of July 31, resulted in 654 households or 68% returning their forms, representing 1,906 people or 65%. This means that we have current data on the majority of our parishioners. (Add to this all those who have registered since December 1.)


Along the way, we found that some of you are interested in new volunteer opportunities and we discovered new babies, kids who have grown-up and left home and other life changes. And no surprise, many of you have changed phone numbers and email addresses.

All this great information has been entered into our database and will help us serve you better! Don’t be surprised if you hear from us again in about five years. Thank you!

OCTOBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>SEPTEMBER 2008 Highlights: September 21 - First Parent/Teen Meeting in Worship Space for Confirmation: 6:30pm - Freshmen; 7:30pm - Sophomores September 24 - 6:30pm Faith Formation Opening Mass and Parent Meeting September 28 - First Gathering for Confirmation - 6:30pm in Worship Space September 27/28 - Harvest of Gifts after Masses</p>						
<p>5 27th Sunday/Ordinary Time A Donut Hole Sunday BOW/LOW during Masses 8:45am Mass 10:45am Mass 12:00pm Blessing/Animals 1:00pm Freshman return from Retreat 3:00pm G-Scout Trip. #67 6:30pm SNAC</p>	<p>6 6:30am Communion Svc. 6:00pm G-Scout #10959</p>	<p>7 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am St Vic's Chicks FG 6:00pm 1st Reconciliation Parent Meeting Healing Hearts 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bell Choir Reh.</p>	<p>8 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 2:00pm Mass-G Sam. 5:30pm FF Session I 6:00pm Praise Band Reh. 6:30pm BOW/LOW Mtg. 6:45pm FF Session II 7:30pm Adult Choir Reh. 8:00pm FF Gr. 9-12</p>	<p>9 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am 12-hr Adoration 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>10 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Warm/Whistle 9:30am HH Focus Grp. 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.</p>	<p>11 Focus Groups between 7:00 and 9:30am 8:45am Registrations (Bv) 5:00pm Mass-Baptism(s) 6:00pm Baptism(s)</p>
<p>12 28th Sunday/Ordinary Time BOW/LOW during Masses 8:45am Mass-Baptism(s) 10:45am Mass-Baptism(s) 12:00pm Baptism(s) 6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>13 6:30am Communion Svc. 6:00pm AR G-Scouts</p>	<p>14 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am St Vic's Chicks FG 3:00pm Spirit! Dir.-CH 6:00pm Healing Hearts 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bell Choir Reh.</p>	<p>15 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 9:30am Rosary-G Sam. NO FF Classes Today 6:00pm Praise Band Reh. 7:30pm Adult Choir Reh.</p>	<p>16 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am 12-hr Adoration 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>17 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Warm/Whistle 9:30am HH Focus Grp. 6:00pm Wedding Reh. 7:00pm Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>18 Fall Clean-Up Focus Groups between 7:00 and 9:30am 2:30pm Timmers Wedding 5:00pm Mass</p>
<p>19 29th Sunday/Ordinary Time A Donut Hole Sunday BOW/LOW during Masses 8:45am Mass 10:45am Mass 11:45am Advent Din. Mtg. 3:00pm Flute/Vocal Recital</p>	<p>20 6:30am Communion Svc. 2:30pm Shar/Caring Hands 6:00pm TAG Meeting 6:00pm G-Scout #10959</p>	<p>21 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am St Vic's Chicks FG 4:30pm Finance Council 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bell Choir Reh.</p>	<p>22 6:30am Comm. Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 5:30pm FF Session I 5:45pm Registrations (Bv) 6:00pm Praise Band Reh. 6:30pm RCIA 6:45pm FF Session II 7:30pm Adult Choir Reh. 8:00pm FF Gr. 9-12</p>	<p>23 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am 12-hr Adoration 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>24 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Warm/Whistle 9:30am HH Focus Grp. 5:30pm G-Scouts-Kim 5:30pm Gr. 5/6 Grand Slam 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.</p>	<p>25 Focus Groups between 7:00 and 9:30am 5:00pm Mass 6:00pm Welcome Dinner</p>
<p>26 30th Sunday/Ordinary Time BOW/LOW during Masses 8:45am Mass 10:45am Mass 1:00pm Trick/Treat for Food Shelf 3:00pm G-Scout Trip. #67 6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>27 6:30am Communion Svc.</p>	<p>28 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am St Vic's Chicks FG 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bell Choir Reh.</p>	<p>29 Oper. Chr. ChildK-Off 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 5:30pm FF Session I 6:00pm Praise Band 6:30pm RCIA 6:45pm FF Session II 7:30pm Adult Choir Reh. 8:00pm FF Gr. 9-12</p>	<p>30 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am 12-hr Adoration 6:00pm Virtus Training 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>31 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Warm/Whistle 9:30am HH Focus Grp. 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.</p>	<p>The calendar is also available at www.stvictoria.net</p>

NOVEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 All Saints' Day Focus Groups between 7:00 and 9:30am 5:00pm Mass
2 All Souls' Day BOW/LOW during Masses 8:45am Mass 9:00am Waffle Breakfast (Catholic Aid) 10:45am Mass 6:30pm SNAC	3 6:30am Communion Svc. 6:00pm G-Scout #10959	4 Election Day 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am StVics Chicks FG 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Mass of Remembrance	5 6:30am Comm. Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 9:30am Rosary-G Sam. 5:30pm FF Session I 5:45pm Registrations (Bv) 6:00pm Praise Band Reh. 6:30pm RCIA 6:45pm FF Session II 7:30pm Adult Choir Reh. 8:00pm FF Gr. 9-12	6 6:30am Communion Svc 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am 12-hr Adoration 6:00pm Jordan Night (Baptism Class) 6:30pm Bible Study	7 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Warm/Whistle 9:30am HH Focus Grp. 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.	8 8:00am FG Friends/Floyd SHARE FAIR after Mass 5:00pm Mass-Baptism(s) 6:00pm Baptism(s)
9 Dedication of Lateran Basilica Share Fair aft. Masses BOW/LOW during Masses 8:45am Mass-Baptism(s) 10:45am Mass-Baptism(s) 11:45pm Advent Din. Mtg. 12:00pm Baptism(s) 6:00pm 1 st Reconciliation/Parent-Child Meeting 6:30pm Confirmation Class	10 6:30am Communion Svc. 6:00pm AR G-Scouts	11 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am StVics Chicks FG 3:00pm Spiritual Dir.—CH 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bell Choir Reh.	12 6:30am Comm. Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 2:00pm Mass-G Samaritan 5:30pm FF Session I 6:00pm Praise Band Reh. 6:30pm RCIA 6:45pm FF Session II 7:30pm Adult Choir Reh. 8:00pm FF Gr. 9-12	13 6:30am Communion Svc 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am 12-hr Adoration 6:30pm Bible Study	14 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Warm/Whistle 9:30am HH Focus Grp. 6:00pm 3 rd Gr. Fun Night 6:00pm Wedding Reh. 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.	15 Focus Groups between 7:00 and 9:30am 8:45am Registrations (Bv) 2:30pm Wedding (Bernard/Orth) 5:00pm Mass
16 33 rd Sunday/Ord. Time A Donut Hole Sunday BOW/LOW during Masses 8:45am Mass 10:45am Mass 3:00pm G-Scout Trp. #67	17 6:30am Communion Svc. 2:30pm Share/Caring Hands 6:00pm G-Scout #10959	18 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am StVics Chicks FG 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bell Choir Reh.	19 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 9:30am Rosary-G Sam. 6:00pm Communal Penance and 1 st Reconciliation 7:30pm Adult Choir Reh.	20 6:30am Communion Svc 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am 12-hr Adoration 6:00pm Parish Council 6:30pm Bible Study	21 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Warm/Whistle 9:30am HH Focus Grp. 5:30pm G-Scouts -Klm 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.	22 Focus Groups between 7:00 and 9:30am 5:00pm Mass
23 Feast of Christ the King BOW/LOW during Masses 8:45am Mass 10:45am Mass 5:00pm Simpson Housing 6:30pm Confirmation Class	24 6:30am Communion Svc.	25 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 9:30am St Vics Chicks FG 7:00pm Bell Choir Reh.	26 6:30am Communion Svc. 7:45am Rosary/Mass 9:30am No FF Classes Today 6:00pm Praise Band Reh. 7:30pm Adult Choir Reh.	27 Thanksgiving Day 9:00am Mass 	28 Day after Thanksgiving (Office Closed) 7:45am Rosary/Mass 8:30am Warm/Whistle 9:30am HH Focus Grp. 1:00pm Groomsmen's Dinner 6:00pm Wedding Reh. 7:00pm Narcotics Anon.	29 Focus Groups between 7:00 and 9:30am 2:00pm Brady/Hesse Wedding 5:00pm Mass
30 1st Sunday of Advent 8:45am Mass 10:45am Mass						

KEY: Aft.= After; Anon.=Anonymous; AR=Auburn Ridge; Bapt.=Baptism; BOW/LOW=Breaking Open the Word/Liturgy of the Word; BV=Elefenoidos;

CH=Craig Hamilton; Chr.=Christmas; Ch.=Child; Comm.=Communion; Din.=Dinner; Dir.=Direction; FF=Faith Formation; FG=Focus Group;

G. Sam.=Good Samaritan; Grp.=Group; G-Scout=Girl Scout; HH=Holy Hilda's; Mtg.=Meeting; Oper.=Operation; Ord.=Ordinary; Par/Child=Parent/Child;

Faith Formation Kicks Off for 2008-2009

Kick-off

An *Opening Mass and Parent Meeting* kicks-off Faith Formation this year on Wednesday, September 24, 6:30 p.m., in the Worship Space. All families registered in any of our Faith Formation programs (Grades 1-8) are invited to the opening celebration. Traditionally, it's a time to share important information, check-out classrooms and meet teachers. A *Root Beer Float* reception is also part of this exciting evening!

Registration

Registrations for Faith Formation classes (Grades 1-8) First Eucharist and First Reconciliation are still being accepted. Two sessions are offered on Wednesday evenings starting with the Opening Mass on September 24 and running through the end of April. The session choices are 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. or 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. At presstime, some classes were already full, especially at 5:30 p.m. Children are assigned to classes on a first come, first serve basis.

Tuition is \$70 per student with \$210 the maximum per family. In addition, there are sacramental fees: \$75 for First Eucharist and \$50 for First Reconciliation and Confirmation. *No child is denied the right to religious education based on the ability to pay.*

Registration forms are available in the parish office or on the parish website, www.stvictoria.net. Forms and fees not yet returned to the parish should be sent to the parish office as soon as possible.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call Amy Kusber, Director of Formational Ministries for Grades 1 through 6 at 443-2661, Ext. 33, or Ryan Heim, Director of Youth Ministries for Grades 7 through 10, at Ext. 12.

Volunteers

All St. Victoria's Faith Formation, children and youth programs depend on volunteers. We invite you, whether or not you have children in a program, to pass our wonderful Catholic faith to future generations by sharing your gifts of time, talent and faith in our parish programs. Volunteers should be Confirmed Catholics with a desire to share their faith with children. Thanks to the response of our parishioners, currently all our volunteer positions are filled.

However, throughout the year we often find that we need additional volunteers. Classroom experience is helpful, but not required. Training and support are provided to make volunteering in our programs as rewarding an experience as possible. Volunteers are also provided free or discounted tuition depending on the volunteer position. If you would like to be on the "on-call" list, please contact Amy Kusber.

"My teaching is not mine but his who sent me." John 7:16

Liturgy of the Word for Children

St. Victoria's Breaking Open the Word (BOW) and Liturgy of the Word (LOW) programs for children take place during the 8:45 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday Liturgies.

A Child's spirituality differs from that of an adult's, and needs to be nurtured in ways that are more concrete, interactive and personal.

We are organizing the BOW/LOW program a little differently this Fall. BOW will be for children 4 years old through Kindergarten and LOW will be for children in grades 1 and 2.

No registration is needed for this

program, just join us during the Liturgy that your family attends. The Fall session begins the weekend of September 28.

Volunteers for this program are currently needed and being recruited. Please consider being a part of this very important and spirit-filled opportunity for the small children of St. Victoria!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call one of the BOW/LOW coordinators: Tami Stibal at 474-4858, Robyn Dumcum at 443-4422 or Michelle Kunze at 442-1713.

VIRTUS Training is Required!

All adult volunteers (anyone 18 years of age or older) who work with children or vulnerable adults are required to complete a background check and participate in a VIRTUS adult training program. Both are required by St. Victoria and mandated by Archdiocesan guidelines and the Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children. Training will be available at St. Victoria on

Thursday, October 30, from 6 to 9 p.m.

You must register to participate at www.virtus.org. If you have questions, please call Amy Kusber, Director of Formational Ministries at 443-2661, Ext. 33.

If you volunteer in any programs at St. Victoria involving children or vulnerable adults you need this training. Space is limited so please sign up now.

Are There Wedding Bells in Your Future?

Are there wedding bells in your future?

When you choose to be married at St. Victoria

there is someone to help you with that most important day from the first call to the parish office (or your visit to the website at www.stvictoria.net) until the minute you walk down the aisle.

With that first call, you'll talk with Joni Jeurissen to make initial arrangements – selecting a tentative date, deciding whether you want to be married in the Worship Space or the Historic Church and determining whether Fr. Bob or Deacon Ray (or someone else you might select) will preside at your wedding. Joni will share information about important documentation required by the Archdiocese and/or St. Victoria that you will need and fees and deposits to be paid. (Please note: In most cases, at least one member of an engaged couple must be a member of St. Victoria [or one or both of their parents] to be married here.)

Fr. Bob or Deacon Ray will set up a date for your initial meeting. At that meeting, they will answer questions you might have and, of course, give you an opportunity to answer questions they have for you. At that meeting, you will receive a packet of information to help you in your wedding preparations.

Every bride and groom is assigned a mentor couple. Mentor couples are married couples who are St. Victoria parishioners who have been selected for their commitment to Christian marriage values. After



special training, they are able to share with you their marriage journey and guide you in starting your own journey. Using materials provided by the Archdiocese, you have the opportunity to explore as a couple your goals, beliefs and values.

And, of course, there's plenty of help in planning your actual wedding. Jamie Moore, Director of Music and Liturgy, will help you plan your ceremony from readings to music. He also provides instructions for your florist, photographer, videographer and even your ushers.

Closer to the date of your wedding, you will be assigned a wedding coordinator – a volunteer who will be with you every step of the way helping you with your final plans right up until she straightens the bride's train as she starts down the aisle.

If you are planning a wedding, make that first call – or easier yet check out the St. Victoria website at www.stvictoria.net (on the main menu, click on the "Sacraments" link) and you'll find all the necessary information and forms to start planning your wedding.

Adult Bible Study on the *Book of Acts*



Starting this month (September) we'll offer an inspiring 20-week Bible Study. We join Jeff Cavins via a

DVD presentation to participate in his study on the *Book of Acts*, sharing his comprehensive teaching and commentary. To enable more people to participate this year, there are three identical sessions offered – Tuesday morning and evening and Thursday evening. All three sessions start

the week of September 16 and run 20 weeks, with breaks at Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Years. (Even if sessions are already underway, you are welcome to join in this wonderful study!)

Registration fee – including materials – is \$40 and is due at the time of registration. (Registration forms are available in the parish office and on our website @ www.stvictoria.net For more information or questions contact Amy Kusber at 443-2661 Ext. 33 or akusber@stvictoria.org.

Harvest of Gifts Celebration



We'll celebrate our Eighth Annual Harvest of Gifts at all the Liturgies the weekend of September 27 and 28. This is a special time when we recognize all of St. Victoria's ministry opportunities and the

wonderful volunteers who make it possible to live our mission – to be the face and hands of Jesus Christ.

Check out the many volunteer opportunities and prayerfully consider signing up to help where you can make a difference by sharing your time and talents.

Introducing Youth Ministry at St. Victoria

By Ryan Heim
Director of Youth Ministries

*“To Know Him –
To Love Him –
To Serve Him”*

When God created us, he created us for a simple purpose: “To Know Him, To Love Him, and To Serve Him.” It is imperative that everything we do we seek to help our teens accomplish just that.

The other thing that must always be kept in mind is that the Eucharist is the *source and the summit* of our faith. Therefore, everything we do should be a stepping stone for leading our teens to a deeper love and appreciation for our Lord, truly present in the Eucharist.

As we continue to grow we must always seek to do Christ’s will – only then will our labor bear the fruit that Christ desires.

Unfortunately – the numbers say that 80% of our teens will no longer be practicing their faith by the time they are 21, regardless of their denomination. We must teach our teens to truly come to “know and love” their faith so that when they are tempted, and they surely will be, they will not fall – by the Grace of God.

Our teens must begin to mature and take ownership of their beautiful Catholic Faith. They will make many decisions during this time that will affect them the rest of their lives.

To guide and assist our youth in their faith journey, we are offering a broad array of programs and youth ministry here at St. Victoria.

The programs offered through Youth Ministry include the following:

Faith Formation – Discipleship 101

We will continue to have our grade 7 and 8 teens meet on Wednesday evenings in two sessions at the Church. The core curriculum will be the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which is written at an 8th grade level. We will also “introduce” our teens to Adoration on Wednesday evenings.

Social Activities – ROCK Jr (Reaching Out to All in Christ’s Kingdom)

We will have monthly gatherings for all our 6th through 8th grade teens and their friends. Examples might be paintball, mini-golf, Valley Fair, YMCA, local ski trips, Winter Blast 2008 and lock-in retreats.

Service

We will schedule service opportunities for our Junior High teens, ranging from an evening project to a busy weekend event. Two outings for our 4th through 8th grade students have already been scheduled at “Feed My Starving Children.” We will also volunteer at local agencies and help collect food/clothing for those in need.

Retreats / Rallies

Our 8th grade teens will be encouraged to go to the monthly “Lifeline Retreats” at NET with the high school teens. The summer will have a few different flavors, ranging from Summerfest and Discipleship camp to local mission trips.

Grades 9 – 12

As we build for the next five-to-ten years, we will add more Catechesis

geared specifically for the 11th and 12th grade students. This year will have a great emphasis on 9th and 10th grade teens.

Confirmation for 10th grade teens is an extremely important event; it’s one of the Sacraments given to us by Christ. Confirmation is *not* the completion of one’s spiritual journey – if anything it is just the beginning.

Confirmation – (Emmaus)

At St Victoria, our teens are Confirmed at the end of their sophomore year. A program with concrete expectations will be established so that our teens are prepared to take the “next step” in their spiritual journey and be prepared to fulfill the promises that their parents made on their behalf at their baptism. It is crucial for the teens’ spiritual well being that they do not see Confirmation as a “completion” of growing in their faith, but rather a blessing from God and that they use the graces received to strengthen their faith and share their faith with others.

Our **Freshman Class** will follow a core curriculum of *The Theology of the Body for Teens* specifically addressing questions relating to chastity and sexuality – “Discovering God’s Plan for Love and Life.”

Our **Sophomore Class** will focus on “Ones Application of their Faith” and “A Personal Encounter with Christ – in the Church, the Gospels, the Sacraments, Corporal Works of Mercy, etc.” Topics will range from God is Love, prayer, The Eucharist, Confession and tough moral issues, as well as a variety of other topics, including selected topics from the *Theology of the Body for Teens*.
Continued on the next page.

Youth Ministry

Continued from page 10.

SNAC –Sunday Night Alive in Christ

SNAC is an opportunity for youth, 9th through 12th grade, to come together to praise the Lord and share about how the Lord is working in their lives. It is crucial that we encourage our teens to pray to Our Lord, truly present in the Holy Eucharist. The best way to get to **know** someone, and to begin to **love** someone, and then want to **serve** someone is by developing a relationship with that person.

The “person” we are talking about here is Jesus Christ. When we sit down and talk to him, and then listen, our lives will begin to change. If we want to change the course for our youth, and everyone else for that matter, it will come by spending time in the presence of our Lord.

Dead Theologians Society (DTS)

This group will gather in a social setting for about 20 minutes, followed by 45 minutes that focus on studying the life of a particular saint. The time also includes a Q&A session, prayer time with a focus on intercessory prayer, quiet prayer time, etc. The response for teens, both Catholic and non-Catholic has been phenomenal.

DTS will be encouraged for everyone in the area in grades 9 through 12 on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9:30pm. It will be an outreach opportunity for all of the local teens, regardless of where they go to church or school, to come together in an inviting setting, get to know one other, and ultimately experience the “Sweet Love of Jesus” through prayer and the Lives of the Saints.

Social Activities — ROCK Sr

We will have social gatherings for

teens and their friends. Examples include activities like paintball, mini-golf, water park, YMCA/rec center, ski trips, etc.

Service

We will schedule service opportunities for our Senior High teens, ranging from an evening project to a busy weekend event. We will schedule outings for Feed My Starving Children as well as volunteer at agencies and help collect food/clothing for those in need. A “Cardboard Box City” sponsored by the St. Paul area churches in October is on the schedule to help “knock out homelessness.”

9 – 12 grade Extra Events

- NET Lifeline once a month.
- A local ski trip with the junior high teens – and a

From the Pastor

Continued from page 1.

Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) to our parish and signed up over 100 volunteers from St. Victoria.

We hired two new staff members – Amy Kusber, Director of Formational Ministries, and Ryan Heim, Director of Youth Ministries. The hiring process was a true example of teamwork – with parishioners and staff stepping up to make certain we made the best hires for St. Victoria.

And, speaking of the staff, they joined me on a P-Com (Parish Community Outreach Ministries) Day visiting the CAP Agency in Shakopee, the Salvation Army and Sharing and Caring Hands, both in downtown Minneapolis. And, as a staff we formed a “study group” reading and discussing the book, *NonViolent Communication – A Pathway to Peace*. Both initiatives are important because we value highly the experiences that bring us together and enrich us as a staff, giving us a broader

Montana Ski Trip for older students.

- Steubenville of the Rockies in Denver for one week in the summer.
- Various week-long mission trips.
- Annual retreats and a 9th grade retreat for Confirmation students.

Nothing we do will be possible without two things: One – the Grace of God as we seek to do his will, and Two – your prayers and support.

I ask you to please keep us in your prayers as we continue to reach out and encourage our teens to become involved in their faith and truly know that Jesus loves them, and ultimately become the “face and hands of Jesus Christ.”

perspective of the church of which we are a part.

And, a very exciting event – on September 13, we registered our 1,000th household. Mike and Michelle Goin joined our Parish Family.

If you remember, back in May 2005, right after our New Church Dedication, we had a contest and asked parishioners to submit guesses as to when we would officially go from a “small” parish to a “medium-sized” parish. Loretta Kocka had the winning guess, missing by only two days! Our new family, along with Loretta and her husband Dave will join me at the Victoria House for a congratulatory dinner.

The months ahead look to be equally exciting – the start of Faith Formation and our Youth Ministry, Harvest of Gifts is just around the corner, we’re planning a Share Fair in November and LaNoche Azul will be here before we know it – heralding the coming holidays.

Fr. Bob

Vatican Splendors on Display at the History Center

You have a rare and exciting opportunity to see many historic and artistic examples of our Faith. "Vatican Splendors" from St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and the Swiss Guard is the largest collection of Vatican Art and objects to ever visit North America. It will be on display at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul until January 11, 2009.

Most of the objects are not displayed publicly even at the Vatican. The collection is presented in thematic sections illustrating the evolution of the Church and its papacy beginning with St. Peter through the papacy of Pope Benedict XVI. Included is artwork dating back to the third century and items ranging from venerated relics (bone fragments of St. Peter) to those from the election of

Pope Benedict XVI. Exhibition designers want visitors to feel transported to the Vatican, from the underground catacombs where the remains of St. Peter were discovered to the magnificent papal chambers found above ground. The exhibition is accompanied by religious education guides, videos and other materials.

Through a **Parish Advantage Program**, you have an opportunity to purchase tickets at a discounted price through October 26. With the discount (\$2 off the regular price), tickets are \$18 for adults, \$11 for children six through 12 and \$15 for seniors. Discounted tickets for parishioners may be purchased by calling 651-259-3440 or visiting www.ticketmaster.com/parish. (Limited tickets available.)

Visit www.mnhs.org/exhibits/vatican/ for more information about the exhibit and the History Center. Information and details about pieces in the exhibit can be found at www.vaticansplendors.com.

(If you're a history buff, you can also visit the "Minnesota 150" Exhibit honoring our State's Sesquicentennial.)

Lucky 13 Results

Our first-ever Lucky 13 Raffle – a Sunset Fest event – was a success! And, especially for first-place winner Steve Schmiege who won the \$5,000 prize.

The raffle proceeds, \$15,000, will be used to paydown our new church mortgage.

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St. Victoria
Parish Family
8228 Victoria Drive
Victoria, Minnesota
55386
952-443-2661
www.stvictoria.net