

June, 2010

# On Eagle's Wings

## What It Means To Celebrate the Eucharist

Because the great Feast of Corpus Christi falls on the first Sunday in June this year, we are dedicating the June issue of Eagle's Wings to the theme of the Eucharist. I've been reading some of the writings of Henri Nouwen lately and in the course of my reading, I came across this passage, which I think speaks clearly of the gift we have in the Eucharist, *"Whenever we come together around the table, take bread, bless it, break it, and give it to one another; saying 'The Body of Christ', we know that Jesus is among us. He is among us not as a vague memory of a person who lived long ago but as a real, life-giving presence that transforms us. By eating the Body of Christ, we become the living Christ and we are able to discover our own chosenness, and blessedness, acknowledge our brokenness, and trust that all we live we live for others. Thus, we, like Jesus himself, become food for the world."*

I love that little passage. It truly sums up what it means to be a disciple of Jesus – to become food for the world. Each of us who have chosen to follow Jesus finds a way to become food for those to whom the Lord sends us. As His disciples we come to learn that we have been chosen by Jesus, that we are indeed blessed in having been chosen, and we acknowledge that we can only serve others from our own brokenness.

Think of it for a moment. In your marriage or as a parent, or even as a good friend to someone, haven't you experienced the sense that somehow you just didn't fall into this relationship but were in some way chosen for it? Haven't you also felt how incredibly blessed you are by the gift of love and faith? And finally, haven't you also known that you are not perfect and that in many ways you are broken and not always at your best for those who need you? Yet in all of this, we who follow Jesus know that He has called us, blessed us and even used our brokenness to "feed" those to whom he has sent us. Not only that, God often has used our brokenness to heal the brokenness of others! This is what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ. This is truly what it means to celebrate the Eucharist.

I am sure that you are aware by now that I have been called by Archbishop Schnurr to be the new pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Mack, Ohio. This means, of course, that my days serving as Pastor of St. John are coming to a close. I am finding these to be some rather difficult days as it is always a bit of a heartache to leave

*(Continued on page 7)*

*fr Mark*

The Eucharist





# From the Business Manager

As you know, there are lots of changes going on within the St. John staff. Fr. Mark will be leaving us in July. Our Lady of the Visitation is indeed fortunate. We pray that his transition will be an easy one.

Fr. Don has been named Temporary Administrator until February, 2011, when the position will be open. Fr. Don will be the primary candidate. We are grateful for Fr. Don and we look forward to ministering with him. Fr. Don recently moved out of the rectory into a home that he has purchased. The Knights of Columbus assisted him with his move and all went smoothly.

Now that the rectory is vacant, we will be using it for some meetings. Meetings there will begin sometime in September and will be on a limited basis.

Another change in personnel is the position of Pastoral Associate of Children's Faith Formation. Jodie Bender is replacing Kathy Guenther, who is retiring. Jodie is very enthusiastic about joining the parish. Please stop by to meet her. Her email address (available June 7) will be [jbender@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jbender@stjohnwc.org).

Finally the Building and Grounds Committee met in May to do a walk-through of all the buildings. We have created a list of improvements and general maintenance that we will work on in the upcoming months. This list is also used in generating expenses for the new budget. As projects move forward, I will provide more details.

Have a blessed June!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Guenther".



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## Saint Gabriel Consolidated School Update

During a recent PTO fundraiser, a live auction item was a "principal of the day." As it turned out there were two people vying for the opportunity and, as a result, it was agreed that there would be two students to share in this experience. Third graders Patrick McCormick and Sam Fehrenbach donned ties and fake moustaches and spent the day as "mini principals." Their day included leading morning and afternoon prayer and making announcements, meeting with teachers about programs, supervising the lunch room and supervising dismissal and bus loading. They also decided to encourage the student body to bring a food item to school in exchange for wearing a hat to classes. Twelve boxes of food were collected through their encouragement and food was sent to the St. Raphael Food Pantry in Hamilton. All in all, this was a great experience for everyone.

Our Race for Education was held on April 30th. All classes participated in this annual school fundraiser. Thanks to the leadership of parent Jamie Wolever, the participation was tremendous and nearly \$20,000.00 was raised for the school. May Crowning was held on May 4th. This annual outdoor devotion to Mary is always a moving experience for all involved. Eighth grader Katie Boehm was chosen by a vote of the eighth grade to crown Mary and she was ably assisted by Emma Anhofer who carried the crown in the procession. Both girls are members of St. Maximilian Kolbe parish.

**Joe Epplen** Principal - 771-5220 - [www.stgabeschool.org](http://www.stgabeschool.org)



## 2010 List of First Communicants



First Communion

Daniel Albacarys	Jacob Durham	Luke Lejeune	Hunter Ramsey
Noelle Barry	Haley Enslein	Thomas Leonard	Ryan Ray
Alexander Bastin	Ashley Evans	Jackson LesCamela	Alexander Reed
Erin Bauer	Dylan Falk	Nicholas Linder	Ellie Reverman
Daniel Belyea	Kyle Fisher	Margaret MacNeel	Reif Richardson
Samuel Beresford	Claire Ford	Maranda McGahan	Lauren Rolfert
Alexa Bertaso	Brooklynn Frazier	Vikram Meyer	Alexander Romer
Evelyn Bishop	Hannah Gaal	Regan Meyer	Kacie Rosnell
Elise Bitzenhofer	Regina Garand	Alyssa Miller	Matthew Saurine
Delaney Bonfield	Emily Garver	Grace Mirande	Zachary Saurine
Joseph Boujaoude	Jacob Gerding	Ryan MortonStrauss	Morgan Saylor
Kellina Brannen	Andrew Gooding	Logan Mowery	Brock Schwind
Lydia Brengelman	Grace Honigford	Daniel Mueller	Brandon Smith
McKenzie Bryant	Marie Hunter	Mackenzie Mulcare	Mya Stine
Colleen Buchanan	Joshua Jones	Genevieve Nelson	Kendall Stokes
Cooper Cadman	Grant Kearns	Oliver Ogg	Brenden Sutton
Grace Carmosino	Autumn Kistner	Brooke Palmquist	Madison Sutton
Daniel Caudill	Bridgette Kleingers	Brooke Palmquist	Davis Tanaka
Wyatt Clevenger	Erin Kohls	Emma Patt	Andrew Thiery
William Conarroe	Farell Kpachavi	Nicole Perozek	Vianney Toinet
Sydney Cox	Melvin Kpachavi	Lauren Petersen	Kyle Weingartner
Tristan Darcy	Kaitlyn Kresky	Joseph Podborny	Lauren Whitehead
Evan Dramis	Luca LaRubbio	Olivia Polivick	Tara Witkowski
Jacob Duborg	Daniel Legters	Aiden Powers	Kylie Wolever
			Cole Woodruff

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

### From Father Don...

"Amen" is such a simple word. It is easy to pronounce and can be said with great passion. "Amen" is something we use in prayer that confirms that what we have prayed, we believe. So why is "Amen" such a hard word to proclaim when it comes to receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus?

Perhaps it is our attitude when we come before the table to receive the precious gift of Jesus. At the Eucharist, we experience Jesus blessed and broken for us and our salvation. As we come to receive and bow our heads, we should feel the pure joy of receiving Jesus once again. Our "Amen" should be a profound response to such a wondrous gift. Jesus died for us so that we may be one with him in the heavenly kingdom. When we respond with a powerful "Amen" we are saying "I believe in what I am receiving - the body and blood of Jesus".

I wonder how many of us believe in what receive. Do we believe that we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus? Or do we merely hold that it is a nice symbol and nothing more than that. It is amazing to see people come before you at Communion time. Some people are chewing gum, others don't have a real sense of reverence as they come up in line. But there are others that do come forward with a deep sense of reverence and I know that their "Amen" means something to them.

I always love to celebrate the sacrament of First Eucharist! I love to see those young children coming up for the first time to receive Jesus. The nervous joy in their eyes trying to remember everything they need to remember - it is very special indeed. Perhaps we can all take the lead from these young men and women and begin to rekindle that spark of enthusiasm in our own approach to receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. There is nothing wrong with being vocal when responding "Amen". It is all right if other people hear it. The whole church should resound with our "Amens" to let those around us know we believe in what receive; the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Amen!



festival page  
(see attachment)



festival page  
(see attachment)



## School Supplies Collection for Reach Out Lakota and Campton Mission

**July 17 & 18 (before all Masses)**

Please drop off school supply donations in the Gathering Space after all masses the weekend of July 17 & 18. We will split the items collected two ways to benefit: REACH OUT LAKOTA, and Campton Mission. Your generosity will ensure that children less fortunate than our own will have the supplies needed to start the new school year. Given below are suggested items: Colored pencils (12 ct. or 24 ct.), Notebook Binders (2 "and 3 "), Pocket Tab Dividers (8), Erasers (Large Pink), Glue (Elmer's or school – 4 oz., Glue Sticks (Regular and Jumbo size), Highlighters, Dry Erase Markers, Crayola Markers (Regular or Washable – Classic colors only), Rulers (showing inches and metric measurements), Pencils (#2 – Not Eagle brand), Spiral Notebooks (1 and 3 Subject Wide or College – Ruled), Pens (Black, Blue, and Red) Fiskars Scissors (Pointed) Notebook Paper Scotch Tape Book Bags. Please be generous. Thank you!



## Early Childhood Registration

Would you like your preschool or Kindergarten aged child to have some fun while learning about God? Have them come to "Sunday School" and join in on all the fun! Registration has begun for the 10/11 school year!

**When: During 9:30 Mass**

**End of September through April**

**Where: St. John's Education Center**

**Who: Children turning 3 by September 30, 2010 through those entering Kindergarten in the 2010/11 school year**

**Cost: Registration \$65**

If you already have a child in the program, forms have been sent home with your child. Forms are also available in the weekday or Sunday office and on our website. Volunteers are needed to teach our children. The cost is waived for teachers and assistants although the reward for working with the young children in our parish is priceless! For more information, contact Jodi Krusling at [JKrusling@stjohnwc.org](mailto:JKrusling@stjohnwc.org) or 860-0233.

## Blood Drive

**Wednesday, June 30, 2010**

**1:30-7:30pm in the Pavilion**

St. John's and the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Blood Donation Drive at the end of June. Your generous blood donation for this worthy cause is needed and appreciated. Donating blood is easy and takes about 20 minutes. The eligibility screening prior to your donation takes about 15 minutes. In order to donate blood, it must be at least 8 weeks since your last whole blood donation. You must be 17 or older (16 with parent consent form) and weigh over 110 lbs. You are not eligible to donate if you recently had major surgery. Donations of Double Red Cells or Platelets & Plasma are also being accepted. Call Dave Toennis at 777-2895 to schedule an appointment or to answer any questions you may have.

## Camp Hope Mountain

**June 23-26, 2010**

**Campton, KY**

This year our adults and teens will once again be heading to Campton, KY, to provide a day camp for underprivileged children, ages 8 – 12 years. For most of the young campers, this is their summer "vacation" and our teens really help to make it special. We focus on helping them to see the good in their lives, and to hear a positive message about the beautiful Appalachian area in which they live.

Our teens serve as mentors to these children, some of whom come back year after year, forming special bonds with one another. Adults work in the background with planning, activities, and food, as well as interacting with the children. The teens also help the adults with their support work. This really is one of those "unforgettable" experiences!

Any teens who would like to join us for the trip can contact Debbie Kreiner at [dkreiner@stjohnwc.org](mailto:dkreiner@stjohnwc.org). Adults can contact Jerry Barney at 777-6433 or [jbarney@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jbarney@stjohnwc.org).



## What It Means To Celebrate the Eucharist *(continued from cover)*

those you have come to love so much. Each of our staff members with whom I have worked so closely have become dear friends to me and I shall miss the give and take of our daily ministry together. Each of you who make up this great parish have been a wonderful witness for me of what it means to care for each other. I consider it a great privilege to have walked some very difficult roads with some of you as you experienced some devastating losses or various personal struggles and difficulties. It has been a great joy to walk with others who have discovered the love of their life and begun living the sacrament of marriage, or to be with others as they bring their little ones for Baptism, or First Eucharist, or Reconciliation. To be with others who are celebrating Confirmation or to be with some of your loved ones as they took their last breath and received the Last Rites of the Church has been truly awesome and profoundly humbling. And, O what a gift it has been to celebrate the Eucharist with you each day and to be inspired by your faith. I thank God daily for the blessing of being a priest. Most importantly, I thank God for having been blessed to be your priest, and I thank you for being the wonderful people you are! After all, this is what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ. This is what it means to celebrate the Eucharist.



## Why Song is Important to the Eucharist

On June 5th and 6th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). We celebrate Christ's presence in the Eucharist – not symbolic, not mythic, but real. Jesus's Body and Blood are present as food and drink. The Eucharist nourishes each of us individually; it also unifies all of us to Christ in preparation for full union with God and the saints in heaven. Singing is so crucial to the Mass because it expresses both individual beliefs and union of individuals into a Community of Faith. One musical highpoint of the Eucharistic celebration is the Sanctus: "And so with all of the choirs of angels in heaven, we join in their unending hymn of praise – 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...'" In other words, every soul in heaven and earth sings together in praise of God as the Body of Christ in response to God's love for us.

So, sing in response to God's love. Sing your joy of the resurrection. Sing your thanks and praise to God. And sing with joy as the Body of Christ with whom you are eternally united!

**Michael Dailey**

## The St. Francis Pledge

*"At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family." -U.S. Bishops*

The Catholic Church brings a distinct perspective to the debate about climate change by lifting up the moral dimensions of this issue and the needs of the most vulnerable among us. More information is available by going to <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/USCCB-2010-global-climate-change.pdf>. All across our country, Catholics are taking the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor and joining the Catholic Climate Covenant. The St. Francis Pledge is a promise and a commitment by Catholic individuals, families, parishes, organizations and institutions to live our faith by protecting God's Creation and advocating on behalf of people in poverty who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. To join the Covenant, you commit to act on each of the five elements of the St. Francis Pledge:

- PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
- LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
- ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations-contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
- ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
- ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

On June 19 and 20, after all Masses, individuals and families from St. John will have the opportunity to take the pledge. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

# Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...



April

*Barry Wauligman on the death of his wife, Deb*

May

*Dan Woods on the death of his father  
Dorothy Blake on the death of her mother*

*Patty Hunkler on the death of her father*

*The family of Eunice "Robbie" Walsh*

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

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