

RE catechists set strong example

By Roger Maiers

Echo the faith!

That's the theme embodied in the catechists who conduct the St. Anthony's Religious Education program on Wednesday nights.

"Catechists don't simply teach the facts about our faith," said Carol Witry, Director of Faith Formation. "They also help the children develop their faith and live it in everyday life. This means they have to share and model their own faith in the classroom. Often students remember the example of their teachers more than they remember the faith facts they were taught."



Carol Witry

The Religious Education program is offered for all kindergarten through high school students who attend a public school. There are about 200 students enrolled this year. Undoubtedly there are some parish youngsters who could/should be enrolled but are not.

"It's unfortunate that not all eligible parish students participate," said Witry, "because we offer a quality program. Our catechists are true witnesses to the Gospel. We expect a lot from them and they deliver. It's a privilege to work with them."

Presently the program employs 21 catechists, 8 catechist aides and 2 office assistants. There is also a sub list for emergency fill-ins. The pay is minimal and only covers actual class time, and not the prep and other personal time often required.

"No one's in it for the money,"

Witry emphasized. "Besides class time, there are 5 required in-service evenings each year, and we also encourage them to take Webinars (on-line training) which are available. About half of our catechists are parents or grandparents of the students."

There are presently 15 K-8 classes spread throughout the two school buildings, which run from 6:30-7:45 pm. H.S. grades are in a combined class conducted in O'Malley Hall from 6:30-8:15 pm. All classes are taught from material approved by the Archdiocese of Dubuque and bearing an imprimatur.

"Much of the high school class time involves hands-on activities and discussion," said Katie Pfiffner, Youth Formation Coordinator. "There are nine general topic areas to cover each year, and the material is presented in a two-year cycle so students are learning new material each year."

So who are some of these catechists and why do they do it?

At age 24, Joe Klauer may be one of the youngest on staff and is now in his second year working with the high school group. Although he attended parochial school himself, he was impressed by hearing his younger brothers and sisters discussing their involvement in parish youth programs and other activities.



A BEGINNING

Religious Ed parents, students and catechists opened the new school year with a gathering service.

"I felt I must be missing out on something and decided this was a way, belatedly, to get involved. I've gotten a great deal of satisfaction from it. We have a lot of discussion in our sessions and high school kids can be very insightful. I've even learned a few things about myself by listening to them."

Julie Seymour is now in her 22nd year as a catechist. She started after college to gain some teaching experience and has stayed with it ever since. Two of her children have completed the program and a third is still in it.

"I taught 4th grade for the first 20 years and then switched to 6th grade last year at Carol's request. I considered quitting a few times, but when Carol calls, it's like God is asking me, so I can't say no. Carol is a great organizer and inspiration to me. And I really enjoy my students. They come with interest and enthusiasm, and this is after spending the day in their regular school. They

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could be doing other things, but they choose to attend Religious Ed. How can you walk away from that?"

Barb Schroeder became a catechist nine years ago, after retiring as a teacher with the Dubuque public school system. She teaches second grade.

"I wanted to stay in touch with children after retirement," said Barb, "and this was a good way to do it. I love the way the program is set up and really enjoy working with the kids and their families in helping them prepare for First Reconciliation and Communion. It's a privilege to help kids in their faith journey. I also get a spiritual uplift from the beginning-year orientation program and the in-service programs throughout the year."

Jamie Easley had her first catechist experience in Qatar over 20 years ago when she taught a group of teenagers

from India. "I had to hide my Bible because of the strong anti-Christian feelings there," she recalled.

Shortly after moving to Dubuque seven years ago, "The Lord called me in the form of Carol Witry, and I've now completed six years in the program here. This year I moved from 3rd grade to 8th grade, which will be an interesting change. I get great satisfaction from being a catechist, because it's one of the few times each week I get to talk about Jesus. If we don't teach our kids about Jesus, who will? I feel it's an obligation we all have."



TEEN GATHERING

High schoolers gather for class in O'Malley Hall.

By all accounts, our Religious Education program is in great shape and provides a meaningful faith experience to both students and teachers. If you want more information or would like to participate in the program in some way, contact Carol Witry at 582-0377 (X230). She'd be happy to talk to you.

Communications Committee seeks greener alternatives

By Roger Maiers

Over the past year, the St. Anthony's Communications Committee has made steady progress in its quest to eliminate or reduce paper documents and communications. Instead of printing and mailing "stuff," the goal is to distribute the material on-line.

Some notable successes have been achieved, including the following ministry schedules: Eucharistic Ministers, Mass servers, Musicians, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Eucharistic Adoration and Lectors.

In addition, a large majority of this year's Religious Education students registered on-line. Paper forms were provided for those who did not have computer access. And, by the time you read this, on-line forms will have been implemented for the sacramental programs (Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation).

Terri Kluesner, Faith Formation secretary, is in the middle of all this change and is certainly a strong supporter.

"Instead of copying, collating and distributing thousands of pieces of paper, I just send out a group e-mail. I can then devote that time saved to other duties that might not get done, or done hastily," she said. "And now much of the data entry work is done by the parishioners, which is another time savings for me. We haven't figured out the savings in actual paper

costs, but we know it's worthwhile. And it helps contribute to a greener environment. We do know this department spent over \$1,200 in postage in 2010. Most, if not all, of that will no longer be needed."

So what about people who don't have computers?

"We are prepared to provide paper forms to those who need them," explained Terri, "but hope/expect that will continue to diminish in the future. People have been very cooperative in providing us with their e-mail address, and we expect that support to continue. When more people begin to use e-mail as a communication tool, we hope they will let us know."

Despite these successes, there are still a few challenges to overcome. In the near future, the Communications Committee will conduct a parish-wide survey to get your feedback on several items.

Committee chair Michelle Covey provided this review of those items:

- Your quarterly financial statement — This is presently printed and mailed every quarter. Other options could include mailing only once a year or e-mailing on a quarterly or annual basis. We want to know what you prefer.

- The newsletter you're now reading — This is now printed and mailed every quarter, along with the financial statement. The last four issues of the newsletter

have been available on the St. Anthony website for several years now. However, we continue to print and mail 1,400 copies every quarter. We don't know if it's reasonable to eliminate all printed copies. However, instead of mailing them they could be inserted in the Sunday bulletin, with extra copies available for those who didn't get a bulletin on that particular week. This would allow us to reduce the printed copies by approximately 50 percent. We want your thoughts on that.

- Budget envelopes — Regular Sunday and special collection envelopes are now mailed monthly to all parishioners. Several hundred people contribute via EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) and no longer need the Sunday envelopes. But they still use the special collection envelopes. We're sort of stumped on this one, but would appreciate any suggestions you can give us.

"Hopefully the survey will give us some guidance on these items," explained Michelle. "However, cost savings and practicality will be the determining factors in our final conclusions."

The survey will be coming (probably in the church pews) in the near future. The committee asks for your serious deliberation and response on these items. It wants to provide what works best for you.

Great school year planned

By Lori Apel, principal



Here at St. Anthony and Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are purposeful in instruction, rich in cultural opportunities, intentional in integrating faith-filled experiences and blessed with strong parental support – what more could we ask for?!

Our school year is going very well. The students have settled into their routines and are working very hard in their classrooms. Thank you to the teachers and staff members for the strong dedication and faith-filled service they provide each and every day to our students. I know I speak on behalf of all staff members - this promises to be a wonderful school year!

Our theme for the year is “Put On Christ.” This year we will focus on the positive ways that our children are “Putting on Christ” through their relations and interactions with others – showing love, kindness, and respect to all. Staff members will deliberately ask the children – “How have you put on Christ today?” In addition, we will

POP chapel now open

With a dedication Mass on Sept. 8, the new Power of Prayer perpetual adoration chapel officially went into use. Located in our former convent building, the chapel is open 24/7 for anyone wanting to visit and/or pray.

“Most churches are locked at night, but we are always open for people wanting to spend some time with God, whether it be in a crisis or for just a quiet moment,” said Bill McDonough, POP president.

“St. Anthony’s has been so warm and welcoming, we already feel at home here,” he added. “And we know



Bill McDonough

continue to encourage the children to attend Sunday liturgy with their families. We will echo the weekly reflective question that St. Anthony parish incorporates.

Our newly renovated Language and Literacy Center is complete. We are very grateful to all who have dedicated their time, talent and treasure to make this dream become a reality. The Center includes a rich collection of children’s books, interactive programming for children including performance areas, and an environment that embraces the love of literature and learning. Please come by for a visit!

Our Professional Development School partnership with Clarke University continues to be of great benefit to our entire campus. We are very fortunate to have this collaborative and collegial relationship with the Clarke pre-service teachers as well as members of the Clarke Education Department.

We look forward to many meaningful activities throughout the year.

Please note that our community celebrates mass together Friday mornings, beginning at 8:45. See you at church!

our members are happy with this move. God has certainly been good to us.”

“This is definitely a win-win for everyone,” said Father Steve, “and at no cost to the parish. We will no longer have the Thursday Eucharistic Adoration in church, since it’s available next door at Power of Prayer.”

The facility consists of two primary rooms: a chapel for Mass and the perpetual adoration chapel. A Pro-Life Mass will be offered every Wednesday at 2:15 p.m. All are welcome.

Parishioners are asked to avoid using the new POP parking spaces, since they are especially needed for elderly and handicapped worshippers. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

That Man is You is for you!

By Mark Lansing

This Fall, and continuing through Spring, St. Anthony Parish is hosting an exciting Catholic leadership program for men entitled That Man is You.



That Man is You uses research from science with the teachings of the Catholic Church and the wisdom of the saints to help men develop their spiritual and family lives. Begun in Texas by a very successful businessman with the blessings of the bishop and pastor, this program has spread across the country.

I participated in it for the past two years at St. Columbkille here in Dubuque and found it to be very enlightening and inspiring program that was enjoyed and appreciated by all the men who took part in it.

Because of the success of the program at St. Columbkille, I discussed offering the That Man is You at St. Anthony with Fr. Rosonke and the stewardship committee. They are very supportive of this opportunity for the men of our parish.

That Man is You takes place on Saturday mornings from 6:45-8:15 a.m. in O’Malley Hall. The program begins with a breakfast social followed by a presentation and discussion. No theology background is necessary to participate and there is no cost or homework.

You are welcome to talk to any of the core team, which includes Bill Mauss, Chuck Olson, Brian Zeman, Dan Mulligan, Mike Moes, Dave Ayers, Greg Ronek, Kevin Althaus, Dennis Heckelsmiller, Chuck Herrig and Mark Lansing.

The program began in September with over 40 men, and we welcome new participants at any time. You will be glad you took advantage of this great opportunity to enrich your faith.

Good time had by all From the pastor's desk

By Fr. Steve Rosonke



On Aug. 7 & 8, I hosted my family reunion. We take turns hosting it. We decided, after our parents both died, that we would get together as a group once a year on the first Sunday and

Monday of August. Whoever is hosting the reunion is in charge of entertainment and food.

After everyone arrived on Sunday afternoon, we went down to the Ice Harbor and went on an hour and a half cruise. Everyone enjoyed it, especially the young people. After the cruise, we went to a restaurant downtown for pizza. Thirty people can go through a lot of pizza! When we got home we had cake and ice cream.

Later in the evening we watched some CD's of family pictures from years ago. It's always fun seeing pictures from when we were growing up. On Monday, they all came to the house around 9 a.m. We played euchre for a couple hours and then had lunch about noon. At every reunion, we usually take a lot of family pictures. By mid-afternoon everyone had left for their homes.

We had a great time visiting and reminiscing and are looking forward to the next reunion in 2012. It will be at my brother's place in Rockford, Ill.

Deadline for next issue: **Dec. 10, 2011**

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Last four issues available on St. Anthony website: www.stanthony-dubuque.org

St. Anthony's Parishioners Standing for Life

By JoAnn Olson

Planned Parenthood opened its office in Dubuque in August 2008.

Planned Parenthood (PP) is the largest abortion provider in the country. Abortion is big business and is what drives PP. Between 2008-2009, it committed 324,008 abortions in this country. That's almost 900 abortions every day. PP says that it is concerned about "women's health" and "reproductive rights," but it makes its money by killing the unborn. In its latest annual report, PP shows a net profit of over \$1 BILLION.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2271) says: "Since the first century, the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law."

As Catholics it is our duty to oppose abortion and abortion providers such as PP. St. Anthony parishioners have joined with other parishes and churches to participate in prayerful and peaceful picketing in front of PP. There have been picketers every hour that PP has been open over the last three years.

Even though PP is moving to a new location, we remain as opposed as ever to its abortion procedures. In the past year, St. Anthony parishioners have come to stand in prayerful and peaceful picketing every **Thursday from 4-5 p.m.** This is a battle that can be won, but we need your help. Will you offer one hour a week and join fellow parishioners in prayer in front of PP (17th and

Join our book club!

By Doris Nigg

St. Anthony is the patron saint of lost causes. Are you ready to be found? Get hooked on a great book!!!

Several of us are forming a book club, and our first selection is *For One More Day* by Mitch Albom, who also authored *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Tuesdays With Morrie*. Drawing on events from his own childhood, Albom has written a beautiful, haunting novel about the family we love and the chances we miss.

This will be a great opportunity to take time out of your busy schedule to read, relax and share your thoughts and reactions to a Mitch Albom bestseller. The first gathering is planned for **Oct. 23, 11:45 am.**

Please contact Doris Nigg (583-0024) or Terry Gross (557-9244) if you are interested.



Making a difference

St. Anthony parishioners man a picket line.

Central) on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m.? Once you go the first time, you'll want to continue to come and be a witness for life. If there is a better time for you to picket, you can call Ellen at 580-1436.

You might ask what prayerful and peaceful picketing accomplishes? Some of what it accomplishes is known only to God, but pro-lifers across the country know that mothers have turned away from having an abortion because someone prayerfully and peacefully stood in front of an abortion clinic. Others have offered support services to help mothers keep their baby or give their baby up for adoption.

A quote from Congressman Henry Hyde, a great champion of the unborn, says it simply: "When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there standing alone before God – and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there'll be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world – and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, 'Spare him, because he loved us!'"

Welcome new parishioners

Betzner, James
Blaskovick, Natalia & Richter, Robert;
Sadie (8), Francesca (5)
Borelli, Tricia & Theodore;
Owen (12), Jan (8), Emilia (4)
Campbell, Cari
Clark, Kristin & Kirby;
Abigail (11), Mirabella (5)
Gerlinde, Roberts
High, Evelyn
Kelly, David & Angelica;
Aiden (3), Cruz (3 mos)
Topping, Vicky & Brian;
Taylor (14), Nicholas (13), Lucas (9),
James (13)