



THE CRUX

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY CROSS PARISH,
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA

January, 2014



Happy New Year!

Catholic Schools Week and Don Bosco

By Father Dave Sajdak

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated the week of January 26 to February 1, 2014. The feast day of St. John Bosco is always January 31. In fact, Catholic Schools Week usually occurs during the month of Don Bosco? Coincidence? Maybe not.

St. John Bosco is the patron saint of schoolchildren, young people, and students. Don Bosco educated thousands of youngsters in his day, and continues to do so through his Salesian Society.

Don Bosco saw basically two systems of education: *the repressive system*, where the rules are posted and the educa-

“It’s not enough to love the young, the young must know they are loved”

-Don Bosco

tor acts like a police officer to ensure the rules are followed. The educator is there to give out consequences when the rules are broken. The second, *the preventive system* of education, where a few clear rules (or expectations) are clearly made known, but the educator is “actively present” among the young people as a friend to help the youngsters grow in line with what is expected.

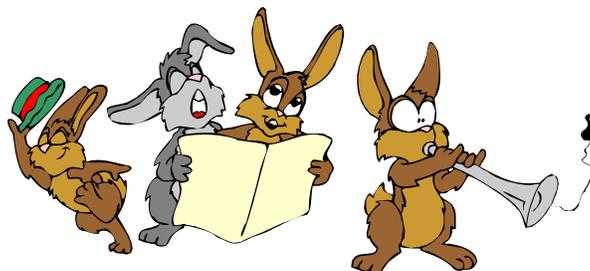
Don Bosco educated the whole person—body and soul. He believed that Christ’s love and our faith in that love should pervade all we do—work, study, and play. (See “Don Bosco and Education” on page 4)

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Temperatures were in the teens, but that didn’t stop several parishioners from Christmas caroling in the Holy Cross neighborhood. After warming up a bit with hot chocolate, we sang carols in the parish center, while visitors viewed the live nativity portrayed by children and the beautiful nativity sets. Plan to join us next year! (text by Cheri Rakers and photo by Barb Tangora)





CRUSADER CORNER

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

BY CHRIS ELLIS, PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year! If a New Year’s resolution could be impressed upon all, it would be to spread the word that Holy Cross School builds a community of faith, academics and service to others. Holy Cross provides a safe, nurturing environment for every child—an environment where education and prayer go hand in hand. Parents often tell us one reason they choose Holy Cross School is the sense of community they feel when they walk through our doors. Their children feel welcome, cared for and safe. Many students and families build friendships that last a lifetime. From athletic competitions to family events, school activities and liturgical celebrations, we learn, play, pray, and grow together.

“Holy Cross provides a safe, nurturing environment for every child—an environment where education and prayer go hand in hand.”

As January opens registration for the upcoming school year, I encourage everyone who knows and loves Holy Cross School to impart your knowledge on others in our community.

We have some exciting news from Holy Cross School—we are developing a preschool program for next school year! Classes will be offered for children aged three and four. Brochures for preschool and kindergarten are both available in the back of the church. The preschool and kindergarten information night is Thursday, January 23 at 6:00 PM. Children are welcome to attend and play in our kindergarten classroom, while parents listen to the presentation.



FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL OF ST. THOMAS MORE

BY ROSE COSTELLO



A lot has been going on at the High School of St. Thomas More as well as the four partner grade schools. Here are some highlights.

The High School of St. Thomas More’s sports program has had an exciting few months. Storm Joop, a Holy Cross School graduate and STM Senior, was awarded the Athlete of the Week for the whole state of Illinois by the Chicago Bears organization. He was named the News-Gazette all area football player of the year and recently signed with the University of Indianapolis to play college baseball. Storm, Mike Plecki, and Chase Kangas, all Holy Cross School graduates, were named 1st team all area in football by the News-Gazette. Do you think they devel-

oped their toughness playing football on the blacktop while they were at Holy Cross School?

Chase, Mike, Storm, and Sean Sullivan, another Holy Cross School graduate, and Cam Die-drich, a St. Matthew School graduate, were named to the all state football academic team. To be on this team the students maintained at least a 3.5 GPA during the football season. St. Malachy School graduate Nick Hess placed 2nd in the state cross country competition. Lexi Wallen, a St. Matthew School graduate, was named to the 1st team all area in volleyball. Mark Tate, STM’s golf coach, was named Coach of the Year by the News-Gazette. His son, Holy Cross graduate Chris, qualified to

play at the state level for the STM golf team. Congratulations to all in the STM athletic program!

The Diocese of Peoria was blessed to have a relic of Blessed Pope John Paul II on display at the Spalding Center in Peoria. About 100 students from area Catholic schools were invited to join other students from the diocese in venerating the relic on November 19. This was a great honor for our students and the whole diocese.

Several of our Catholic school families were affected by the recent tornadoes in Gifford and Washington, Illinois. Students at Holy Cross and St. Matthew Schools collected water bottles to

Catechetical News

By Marc Cardaronella

Last summer we started a very important project—to study the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) in a year as part of the Year of Faith. In October 2011, in announcing the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict asked all the faithful (that's you) to study the Catechism and become reacquainted with the richness of the Catholic Faith. That month marked the 20th anniversary of the Catechism's publication and the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II (which initially called for a new Catechism). It was the perfect opportunity to give the project a go.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is the kind of book that everyone thinks is completely fantastic but no one really reads much of (except for theology geeks like me). It really is an amazing resource. In one book you can get a summary of everything the Church believes to be true. If you want to know what the Catholic Church stands for and teaches, you don't have to wonder. There it is all laid out and systematized for you in the CCC. No other Christian community can claim something like that. The problem is the CCC is big and it's kind of hard to read and well...it's big. And, without an expert to guide you through, it can become difficult to understand all the richness it has.

Enter the Holy Family School of Faith in Kansas City, Kansas. This is a catechetical institute run by the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. They had a great video program that explained the whole Catechism in four parts: Creed,

Liturgy & Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. This division wasn't that hard to come up with because that's the way the CCC is divided anyway. The program is really good. It's informative, engaging, and very thorough. We started last summer with the last and shortest section, Prayer, as a test run. The response was great, so we decided to keep going.

“The Catechism of the Catholic Church ...is an amazing resource. In one book you can get a summary of everything the Church believes to be true.”

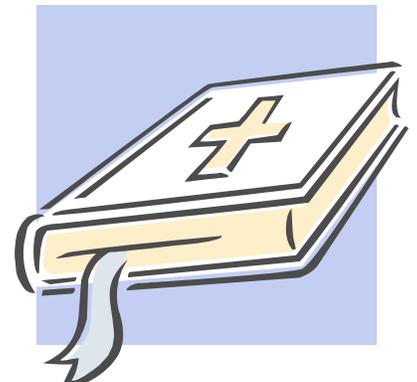
In October, we started back at the beginning...we offered Part 1: The Creed. Our plan is to offer Part 2, Liturgy & Sacraments, and Part 3, Morality, through the rest of the year. Finally, we'll end by doing Part 4, the Prayer section, again in a short summer session. Each study stands alone, so you can take one of them or all of them, whatever your schedule can accommodate.

So, if you're interested in deepening your faith and understanding more about what the Church believes, our Catechism study series continues

in January. The Year of Faith is officially over but there's still more of the Catechism to study! Part 2 on Liturgy and Sacraments begins again on January 20/21. Classes are on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. If you've ever wondered why the Mass is the way it is, why we worship the way we do, and what difference the Sacraments make, this study is for you.

Again, each study stands alone, so feel free to jump in even if you haven't taken any of the other studies in the series. The cost is \$25 per person for materials. If you bought a workbook for any of the other sessions, you don't need to pay again. The same book will be used throughout the study series. To register, call the Parish Office at 352-8748.

St. Theresa of Avila said that knowledge precedes love because you have to know your beloved. Studying what God has revealed about himself is the perfect way to become more intimately united with him this year.



Don Bosco and Education (continued from page 1)

For Don Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-a-week, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God in everything we do, letting God's love lead us in all things.

There are three pillars in Don Bosco's Preventive System: REASON, RELIGION, and LOVING KINDNESS.

REASON is to do the "reasonable" thing with the young. To do this the educator must see the world like a youngster. Then the educator brings the student up to an adult level. The educator accomplishes this by clearly making known expectations, rules, and requirements, keeping rules easy to remember. Then, the educator must be present to the young to prevent bad things from happening and to promote good events. REASON, therefore, means to build on the positive, to encourage questions and suggestions, and to develop leadership in the young.

The second pillar, RELIGION, creates a religious environment

where the young become aware of God's presence at all times. The pillar creates a clear enlightenment of the mind on the truths concerning God and moral behavior. REASON has us nurturing the growth of good moral consciences by a sound, systematic teaching of morality—so



Don Bosco among his students

the youngster may make sound moral decisions on his own. RELIGION develops a "vocation culture" in which the young know God has created them for a purpose and calls them into His service.

The final pillar, LOVING KINDNESS, means the educator totally dedicates him/herself to the well-

being of his/her student—willing and ready to accept sacrifices and hard work in the fulfillment of this mission.

Don Bosco saw the education of the young as a matter of the heart. He said: "It's not enough to love the young, the young must know they are loved." Don Bosco did not mean a sentimental kind of love, but a love that the young knew the educator had their best interest in mind and heart.

Holy Cross Parish supports Catholic Education *big-time*. Much of our financial resources goes to keep the doors of Holy Cross School and St. Thomas More High School open. We do this because we believe in the value of Catholic Education and what it is meant to offer to every student. May we rely on the intercession of St. John Bosco that our generosity and sacrifice will not be in vain. But, our young will grow to be good Catholic citizens here on earth and will eventually become good citizens in heaven—the ultimate goal of all true education.



Celebrate Catholic Schools Week!

January 26th-February 1st

F³ (Feasts For Fathers) NEEDS YOU!!

By Cindy Howie

Did you know.....it's common for the parishioners of a church family to feed their priests? In the past, a group of women and families here at Holy Cross have taken on this service. Now we've all been given the opportunity to treat our priests to a delicious meal.

The F³ calendar has been extended through 2014 and is now available for sign-up. Please consider helping provide dinner for Fr. Dave, Fr. Bill, and Fr. Santa.

Make a New Year's Resolution to volunteer one day a month to make a meal. Please log in to the calendar and sign up using the following information:

www.carecalendar.org, Care calendar # 154196

Helper security code: 9944

If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, don't let that stop you!! Call the Parish Office at 352-8748 and we'll help you schedule a day.

STM News (continued from page 2)

be sent to the two areas. These two schools as well as St. Thomas School also collected money for relief programs in these areas. One of the teachers at St. Malachy lost her home, and that school community has been generous in helping with her family's needs. The parish will continue to help with the future needs of their many parishioners affected by the tornado in Gifford. Students at STM donated over \$1000 for the cause.

All of our schools participated in Advent service projects. Holy Cross students collected toiletries and cold-weather clothing items to fill backpacks for the clients of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. The STM boys varsity basketball team volunteered at the Crisis Nursery Holiday Shop; seven of these team members are Holy Cross School graduates. Students at STM have donated toys for Luke's League, an organization that provides gifts for children who are in the hospital for long periods of time.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of STM's fall play, "An Evening in The Twilight Zone" on being selected to perform at the Illinois State High School Theatre

Festival in January! Theatre Fest is the largest gathering of high school theatrical performers and technicians in the nation and hundreds of schools across the state submit their fall productions. Only a small handful of schools are chosen to perform at the festival. This is the first time STM has submitted a play for inclusion in the festival, so to be chosen is a pretty big deal.

The annual Catholic Schools Week celebration begins January 26 and extends throughout the entire week. There will be many activities at each school and some events in which all the schools will participate. Please check the individual schools' websites for specific details as well as the parish bulletins.

The annual STM raffle is underway. The grand prize is \$25,000 with only 1000 tickets to be sold. There will also be prizes of lesser amounts - \$5,000, \$2500, \$1000, and \$500. Tickets can be purchased from families in the STM community as well as online on the STM website (www.hs-stm.org). The drawing will be at the Mardi Gras Party on March 2nd.

If you would like to learn more about what is happening in our area

Catholic schools, check out www.champaigncatholicschools.org, the Champaign area Catholic schools website. This website will direct you to the websites of the individual schools. You also may contact Rose Costello, the Regional Coordinator of Catholic Education, at rcostello@hs-stm.org.

**Student submissions
for the Crux
are welcome!**

**Please send any suggestions or articles to:
cruxathc@gmail.com**

FOCUS

On Pro-Life

By Joy Pace

Everyone can make a difference in Pro-Life matters. Here are some suggestions regarding prayer, education and service. Have fun! Thank you for the defense of Life!

Pray daily for:

- Conversion of heart for those in government and policy-making positions and all who support abortion.
- Healing for those who are wounded by abortion and for those in their families too.
- Abortion-providers and clinic workers to leave their life-destroying work for work that is life-affirming.
- Our society - that we adopt a proper understanding of the God-given gift of intimacy - meant for couples in sacramental marriage only.

Education:

- Every family should have a copy of the Catholic Catechism.
- Know and live the moral teachings of the Church.
- Look in the internet for good pro-life sites.

Know:

- Participation in any abortion, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research and well as violence against another human (not while defending oneself), is a grave matter.
- Forgiveness for the above is possible. God is waiting for you to come to him. He is a God of love and mercy. Any person involved in mortal sin can be forgiven by going to confession with a firm resolve to not commit the sin again. God is bigger than any sin, including the sin of abortion. We know abortion changes the family forever - and that affects everyone. While the aborted child cannot be brought back, people with abortion effects can have peace and joy. I recommend attending a *Rachel's Vineyard* retreat to help with healing. Come back to the sacraments, starting with reconciliation.

Simple things families can do:

- Save spare change to give to worthy charitable organizations that support life issues
- Support your local pro-life committee

- Donate food, gently-used clothing and household goods to others in need
- Participate in 40 Days for Life, the Ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil (January 22, 2014) at Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, Champaign
- Talk about wanting your children/grandchildren to live the right life. Tell them that you and the family will love them and help them, even if a pregnancy is not happening in the best of circumstances. Children and moms need love and support and we need families to demonstrate love in these situations. It may be hard, but love is always the answer.
- Know about human development - and be sure to show your children/grandchildren how wonderfully made they are! The human heart starts beating at 3 weeks gestation!
- Know and live the Teachings of the Church and teach your family. Comment on news stories, subjects in movies, books and music. Why not ask: What do you think Jesus would do?
- Live a simple life - a Christ-centered life. Live within your budget. Share your goods, time and money with others in need.



Theresa Brown and her family enjoying their new hats and scarves – hand knit by the Provena/Presence Auxiliary! Everyone will be snuggly and warm! Photo by Roger Brown

What is NaProTECHNOLOGY? Why we support it.

Joy Pace and Jen Mokos

NaProTECHNOLOGY is a new women’s health science that works in conjunction with the Creighton Model Fertility Care System – a proven system that networks family planning with reproductive health monitoring and maintenance. Using the most up-to-date and minimally-invasive techniques and methods, NaProTECHNOLOGY works cooperatively with the reproductive system to help women achieve optimal health. Some items include:

- Observing and charting certain biomarkers that allow couples to determine their periods of natural fertility and infertility.
- Monitor women’s reproductive health. In addition, the Creighton Model charting can be used by trained physicians to assist in diagnosing health issues that may be present.
- Assistance in achieving and maintaining pregnancy.
- Monitoring pregnancy to minimize the likelihood of miscarriage, stillbirth, or prematurity.

NaPro protocols are aimed at diagnosing and treating the underlying health issues that cause patients’

symptoms, rather than masking a woman’s personal symptoms with oral contraceptive drugs.

NaPro can help with menstrual cramps, PMS, irregular bleeding, PCOS, and ovarian cysts.

Besides being very successful, and very natural, NaProTECHNOLOGY is fully within the Teaching of the Church!

We support NaPro so much, that we sent a good-hearted young woman, Jen Mokos, to study these methods at the Pope Paul VI Institute in Nebraska. She completed the first part of the course in October, and will return next spring for the second half.

Our long term goal is to have several practitioners in the Champaign-Urbana area, and possibly start a NaProTECHNOLOGY clinic here. We aim to provide women with cutting-edge health-care paired with old-fashioned individualized personal care.

As we embark on this journey, we are very excited for the future! Please support Jen and this effort with your prayers!

God bless you for all of your support!

Joy Pace, Pro-Life Committee
Jen Mokos, FCPI

Holy Cross Pro-life 2014 calendar

Pro-Life Committee Meetings Wednesday evenings after Mass on the following dates:

(approximate start 7:30-7:40 pm)

HC Parish Center Mezzanine

January 15	April 23	July 16	October 15
February 19	May 21	August 20	November 19
March 19	June 18	September 10	December 17

Special Pro-Life dates:

Living Alternatives Baby Bottle Drive Jan 1 – Jan 31

Ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil Jan 22, Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church

40 Days for Life – Spring Campaign March 5 – April 13

Clip and save these dates!

A Marian Shrine

By Father Dave Sajdak

We are truly blessed to have the sacred space for our worship that we have. Holy Cross Church brings inspiration as soon as one enters through her doors. Our church is a monument of faith for those who have built it and have supported it through the years.

In 1983 the church underwent extensive renovation under the direction of Mr. Harry Breen. What we have today is the result of Mr. Breen's artistic talent and expertise. One of the creative additions to the church was the sanctuary of the Blessed Sacrament, which was set apart from the church proper by marble railings and by draperies. It contained the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle house.

In recent years, bishops across North America have reinterpreted the directives of where the Blessed Sacrament should be reserved. The bishops have decided that the Blessed Sacrament should be moved back to the center of the church. Thus, following our bishop's direction, the last executive act of Fr. Steve Willard before he left Holy Cross was to move the Blessed Sacrament back to the center of our church.

Now, the tabernacle in the beautiful space of the Blessed Sacrament sanctuary is empty. What are we to do?

In consultation with Mr. Breen, a construction of a shrine to the Blessed Mother would be appropriate in that space. This could be



“Be devoted to Mary Help of Christians and you will see what miracles are!”

-Don Bosco

done in a way that would keep the integrity of the art work already in this space.

It is little secret now, the Salesians of Don Bosco promote devotion to the Blessed Mother under the title of Mary, the Help of Christians. The Blessed Mother is portrayed as Queen of Heaven holding her infant Son, who is the King of Heaven. Mary presents Jesus to us.

Don Bosco said: "Be devoted to Mary most holy; frequently call on her. Never was it known that anyone who trustingly had recourse to her was not promptly heard." And, "Be devoted to Mary Help of Christians and you will see what miracles are!"

We would like to obtain a statue of Mary Help of Christians, and then enshrine her in the space that once was our Blessed Sacrament sanctuary. We would want a piece of art that would complement the beauty of our church. Of course, such art comes with a price.

However, this renovation to our church is an opportunity to establish a memorial for our loved ones who have passed into eternity. Therefore, funds for our Marian Shrine will come *solely* from those who wish to have their loved ones to be part of this memorial.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office. Mary Help of Christians, pray for us!

A Celebration of Christ's Birth

Images in Holy Cross Church at Christmas Time



Top: Stained-glass window in Holy Cross Church. Bottom: Panorama photo of Church Christmas decorations, directed by Harry Breen and placed by a team of volunteers. Photos by Sharon Kristovich.

A Celebration of Christ's Birth

Images in Holy Cross Church at Christmas Time



Details of Christmas decorations in Holy Cross Church, directed by Harry Breen and placed by a team of volunteers. Photos by Sharon and David Kristovich.



E I M N T S T

L O P W

A A J N R U Y

A C F R S

Answer:

Answers: Mittens, Plow, January, Scarf - Secret Word: Snowman

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SUNDAYKIDZ

Winter

CREW—Christ Renews Everyone’s World High School Youth Group

By Carrie Otto, St. Patrick’s Parish (carrie.otto@stpaturbana.org)

CREW (Christ Renews Everyone's World), the youth group through St. Patrick Church, is open to all high school students in the area. We’ve had great attendance at our meetings so far this fall and students have enjoyed learning about the Creed, how to be an everyday hero and more about the saints – as well as playing games and having fellowship with other Catholic teens.

Upcoming events:

- Sun, Jan. 12 – Teen Mass at 5:00pm, followed by dinner in the Parish Hall (\$5 donation requested)
- Sun, Jan. 26 – CREW, 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Hall
- Sun, Feb. 2 – Noon Mass followed by a Teen Lunch in the Parish Hall (\$5 donation requested)
- Sun, Feb. 9 – CREW, 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Hall
- Sun, Feb. 23 – CREW, 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Hall

Contact Carrie Otto, the High School Youth Coordinator at St. Patrick’s with any questions:
carrie.otto@stpaturbana.org

Clip and Save these Dates

(See articles in this issue or the parish bulletin for more information)

- 1/1 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
- 1/15 Holy Cross Pro-Life Meeting, after evening Mass
- 1/20 or 1/21 Liturgy and Sacraments Class.
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
- 1/22 Ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil (Pro-Life)
Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, Champaign
- 1/23 Preschool and Kindergarten information night, 6 PM
- ***All of January-Living Alternatives Baby Bottle Drive***
- 1/26-2/1 Catholic Schools Week
- 1/31 St. John Bosco's Feast Day!!!
- 2/14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 2/19 Holy Cross Pro-Life Meeting, after evening Mass

The deadline for the March-April issue of *The Crux* is February 15th.

Please send your submissions or suggestions to:

cruxathc@gmail.com

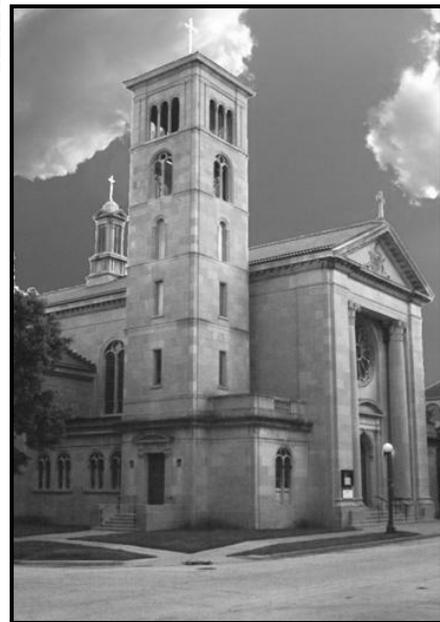
Submissions and suggestions from all parishioners are welcome! We especially need photographs of parish or school events!

Happy New Year!

-The Editors



Holy Cross Veterans after the November 10th Veteran's Day Mass
Photo courtesy of Dave Devall



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