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Prayerful Song

The Power of Taizé

In a quiet sacred space, people gather. The lights are subdued, and many sit on the floor, some in chairs, in no particular order. Those who gather may or may not belong to a faith group. Some come out of curiosity to the open and ecumenical gathering – a gathering that crosses denominational lines, joins hearts to pray in the spirit and style of Taizé.

Taizé prayer is a two-fold expression of deep, quiet adoration of God and the integral affirmation of world wide solidarity as one human family. Music is at the core of Taizé prayer. Much of the prayer consists of praying by singing repetitive yet profoundly beautiful, lyrical refrains that carry the participants to a place of much deeper communication with the Creator. Taizé meditative singing emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated and sometimes also sung in canon. The repetition is intended to aid meditation and prayer.

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The World Community

Making Our Way to Peace

“Do you know what astonished me most in the world? The inability of force to create anything. In the long run, the sword is always beaten by the spirit.”

This quote comes from a source you might consider surprising - Napoleon Bonaparte, credited in history with remarkable military triumphs. Yet even this renowned military leader of the French



Fr. Jack Kern (right) chats with Katie West (center) and Debra Schneider (left) after sharing “Pizza with a Purpose,” a night dedicated to peace held at SSPP October 24, 2007

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The Power of Taizé continued from page 1

A Taizé prayer and music night was held in late October at the Big Red Church in downtown Milwaukee on Wisconsin Avenue – Calvary Presbyterian. The service was led by Brother John from the Taize Community in France. Our SS Peter & Paul choir director, Tom Koester, led the musicians and members of the SSPP choir supported the song. But the musicians and singers are not at the spotlight. They are scattered throughout the assembly so that individuals feel a more direct communion with God. The prayer, “between ourselves and God there is no between” echoes the spirit and symbolism.

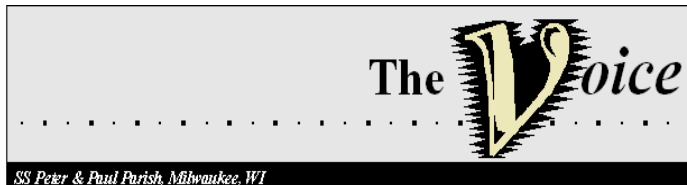
What is truly unique about Taizé prayer is that it transcends the boundaries of different faith groups. Taizé prayer originates from the Taizé Community located in a little village in Burgundy France. In 1940 Frère Roger (Brother Roger), a Protestant, started an ecumenical monastic community. Today the community is made up of over 100 brothers from many nations representing Protestant and Catholic branches of Christianity. Brother Roger remained its leader until his death on August 16, 2005. Life in the community focuses on prayer and Christian meditation. Young people from all over the world visit Taizé each week to join in the community life. They experience the power of God’s Spirit through daily study, fellowship and prayer in this unique setting. The community website is <http://www.taize.fr/en> ☞

The first time you participate, you truly experience the quiet but incredible power of Taizé prayer. Services are held regularly in many parts of Milwaukee and other cities. Here are a few locations nearby. Call ahead to verify the service times:

- ☞ United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
819 E Silver Spring Ave, 414-964-2424
First Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
- ☞ St. Catherine’s Catholic Church
5105 W. Center Street, Milwaukee
414-445-5115
Last Friday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

- ☞ First United Methodist of West Allis
1574 S 76th, 414-774-5500
Quarterly Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.
- ☞ Calvary Presbyterian
628 North 10th Street, Milwaukee
414-271-8782
Fourth Friday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving Happy Thanksgiving Happy Thanksgiving Happy Thanksgiving



SS Peter & Paul Parish, Milwaukee, WI

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Janine Miller, Editor
Lynn Charnitz, Contributing Writer
Kari Couture, Contributing Writer

Our pastor, Fr. Mike Michalski, returns from his sabbatical in December. Look for tales of his adventures and what he learned in a future issue of *The Voice*.

Have a very *Happy Thanksgiving* – we hope you enjoy many blessings in your life and can share the holiday with those closest to you.

Parish Connection

The Upper Room

Thought-provoking conversation, good company and good coffee – that’s what you’ll find on Sunday mornings if you come to the Upper Room. Aptly named for its location on the second floor of the

parish offices, the Upper Room is a wonderful space with comfortable couches, chairs, and lots of windows – exactly the right atmosphere to inspire good conversation.



Sara and Mike Larson (right) get the discussion going in the Upper Room, Sunday mornings.

Each Sunday after the 9 a.m. Mass, a group of about a dozen people meet in the Upper Room to discuss faith-related topics that range from biblical discussions to the saints. Each week there’s a different topic for discussion.

The group started last year as RCIA II because it consisted of RCIA I “graduates” who wanted to continue the kind of faith-related discussions they had in RCIA. This year, the group was opened to all interested Catholics and the name changed to the Upper Room. Sara and Mike Larson lead the Sunday morning discussions that start in September and continue through the Easter season. All are welcome. ☪

New SSPP Members

The following people have become members of SS Peter & Paul since August 2007:

- Lissa Bauwin
- Denise Cassidy & Ian Phillips (son)
- Aubrey Ferraro
- Suzana Fregoso & Ariana Petrie (daughter)
- Alicia & Ronald Hmielewski & Jayna (daughter)
- Briana Kramer
- Brigid LaJeunesse
- Maciej Miaskowski
- Katelyn Moss

Welcome to our parish family!

Holiday Tradition

One of the important holiday traditions at SSPP is the **Holiday Giving Tree**. The tree appears on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, filled with tags with gift ideas of many types in many price ranges. The gifts are given to organizations in Milwaukee that serve those in need. The agencies that receive the gifts tell us that in many cases these gifts are the only ones that their clients receive. In many ways the Giving Tree embodies the true spirit of gift giving at Christmas, and participating is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Please prayerfully consider giving. ☪

Parish Staff

Behind the Spotlight

Most weekdays, if you call the SS Peter & Paul parish office, you're likely to hear the friendly voice of Sandy Avery, the Parish Pastoral Assistant. Sandy has been the Pastoral Assistant at SSPP since March, 2003, doing her work quietly, behind the scenes.

An unusual day on the job at the parish office? "A day that is very quiet," says Sandy. Most days are anything but "usual" according to her. Every day can bring something different, unexpected – whatever the phone, the front door, or email brings. "After a particularly hectic or busy time in the office, Jane (Ore) and I joke about getting 'back to normal' but have come to the conclusion there is no such thing as normal." And somehow, in addition to the unpredicted tasks each day brings, the day-to-day work always gets done.



What Sandy calls the "day-to-day work" is what keeps the parish running smoothly. "Much of what I do is maintain parish records; keep the parishioner database up to date; record baptisms, marriages, confirmations and first communions in the sacramental books; and keep information current for parish use and archdiocesan reports."

She also manages the parish calendar as well as the presider schedule and the wedding calendar. She arranges and coordinates baptisms and the baptism preparation classes. Sandy's work is essential to the parish, but a lot of it takes place behind the scenes. "What most people know of my work is the weekly bulletin, and answering the parish office phone and front door."

"I consider a big part of my job description as "support staff". I hope what I do supports the work of the parish and other staff members and makes their work easier."

Why did she choose this path/career? Sandy says, "Sometimes I think life chooses for us and we just follow along. I had a similar position in another parish so it made the transition to SS Peter & Paul a little easier. Over the years I have done a lot of office work, so it seems to fit my skills."

When she's not at the parish office, Sandy finds time to read and get creative. "Reading is one of my favorite pastimes – I am often working my way through 2 or 3 books. Quilting is a new interest and I would like to re-learn to knit. My husband is the real cook in our family but we both enjoy working in the kitchen together. A special time for us would be planning, preparing and enjoying a dinner with friends."

The best part of her job at SS Peter & Paul is her interaction with the people who walk through the doors every day. "(I like) working with lots of good people – the parish staff, parishioners, volunteers, CEE, ESCYM – lots of good people trying to make a difference in people's lives, trying to make the world a better place."

One thing that might surprise people? Sandy says, "I wish I could rollerblade!" ☪

Justice Education

Food for the Soul

By Kari Couture

“Unless our human species can open itself to the contemplation of food as a holy mystery through which we eat ourselves into existence, then the meaning of existence will continue to elude us.”

-Sister Miriam MacGillis (from Green Sisters: A Spiritual Ecology)

The American food industry brings your dinner right to you. It’s quick, easy, abundant and most importantly: it’s cheap. But where does it come from? Who grows it? How do they grow it? Who harvests it? How is it processed? Who processes it? How does it get to your supermarket? And most importantly, if you knew the answers to these questions, would you still buy it?

In his book, *Diet for a Dead Planet*, Christopher Cook reminds us that Americans spend less on food as a percentage of our household income than any nation in the world. And as a result of our inexpensive food production, we are depleting our topsoil; polluting our water; using growth hormones, herbicides and pesticides that are causing extinction of native species; causing human food allergies and an unknown list of illnesses, diseases, disorders and birth defects; mistreating, underpaying and maiming workers and all the while using more energy resources than any other country on the planet while an estimated 35 million Americans are still food insecure.

The problems of our food industry are many and they are interconnected. American food is a profit driven industry. Instead of concern for how best to utilize the land for good crops, it has become a question of how far we can stretch and abuse the land before it becomes barren. Instead of being respectful and appreciating the nuances of nature, we have become like Dr. Frankenstein, creating

seeds and chemicals in a laboratory that can control, manipulate and ultimately dominate nature, oblivious to what the potential consequences may be. Instead of farming for the needs of local people, we send food all over the country and all over the world, using natural and financial resources that could be focused on helping individual communities feed their hungry and poor. Instead of experiencing any sense of connection to the earth and the growers of our food, we want to shop the climate controlled, fluorescent lit isles of our grocery stores where we don’t have to think about how the farmers will possibly live off the tiny portion of profit they make from the reduced price we pay at the check out.

One simple thing we can all do is learn and read. Be informed about your food. Purchase as much local food as you can. Shop at local grocers, buy produce at local farmer’s markets, read your food labels and try to buy food that is grown, made and distributed in Wisconsin and that is made with natural and organic ingredients.

To some it may seem elitist or impractical to spend the extra money, but there is more to this action. If everyone purchased local food it would help our local economy grow, food would be less expensive because the need for excessive transportation, packaging and processing would be eliminated. And to feel a deeper connection to our land and our food is to be in communion with nature and recognize an important aspect of our humanity.

The Lord gave us the intelligence and technology we have used to create this food industry and we should all absolutely demand that it be used in a fair, sustainable and environmentally friendly way to feed everyone. ☪

Resource information on page 8

☞ Parish Calendar ☜

These dates - subject to change – are events at SS Peter & Paul in the coming months. Please check the Bulletin for specific information. Regular Masses are 5 pm Saturday, 9 am, 11 am and 7 pm Sunday, and 8 am weekdays (M-F). Confessions are 4-4:30 pm Saturday. Centering Prayer is each Tuesday at 7:15 pm in the Church Center. For more information, call the rectory at 962-2443.

St. Casimir, the site of ESCYM is at 924 E. Clarke St.

November

11/14
Evening Prayer 6:30pm Church
Commission Meetings 6:45pm
ESCYM K-Gr 5 6:15-7:30pm; St. Casimir

11/18
Family Coffee Hour, 10am, Ch. Ctr.
RCIA 10-Noon
Upper Room 10-Noon, Upper Rm.

11/20
Centering Prayer 7pm Ch. Ctr.

11/21
Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service
7pm, Plymouth Church

11/22
Thanksgiving Day

11/25
RCIA 10-Noon, Ch. Ctr.
Upper Room 10-Noon, Upper Rm.

11/27
Centering Prayer 7pm, Ch. Ctr.
ESCYM MS & HS 6:30-8pm, St. Casimir

11/28
ESCYM K-Gr 5 6:15-7:30pm, St. Casimir

December

12/2
Holiday Bake Sale After Masses Ch. Ctr.
RCIA 10-Noon
Upper Room 10-Noon Upper Rm.

12/3
SPRED Preparation 6:30-9pm, SPRED Rm.

12/4
Centering Prayer 7pm, Ch. Ctr.
ESCYM MS & HS 6:30-8pm, St. Casimir

12/5
Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm Ch. Ctr.
ESCYM K-Gr 5 6:15-7:30pm, St. Casimir

12/8 SPRED Total Community 9-12 pm
SPRED Rm.

December, cont'd

12/9
RCIA 10-Noon, Ch. Ctr.
Upper Room 10-Noon Upper Rm.
Vespers with "Canticle" 4pm Church

12/10
St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. 6:30pm, Batz Rm.
Eat, Drink & Be Catholic 6:30pm, Holy Rosary

12/11
Centering Prayer 7pm Ch. Ctr.
ESCYM Confirmation Mtg 6:30-8pm,
St. Casimir

12/12
ESCYM K-Gr 5 6:15-7:30pm, St. Casimir

12/15
Market Day Pickup 8:15-9am Café.
Single Vision Holiday Party 7pm Ch. Ctr.

12/16
Rite of Welcome 9am Mass
Family Coffee Hour 10 am, Ch. Ctr.
RCIA 10-Noon,
Upper Room 10-Noon Upper Rm.

12/18
Centering Prayer 7pm Ch. Ctr.
ESCYM MS & HS 6:30-8pm St. Casimir

12/19
CEE Christmas Concert 7pm Church
ESCYM K-Gr 5 6:15-7:30pm St. Casimir

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24 - 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm
December 25 - 10:00am
January 1: 10:00am Mary, Mother of God

January

1/2
SPRED Prep 6:30-9pm SPRED Rm.
Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm Ch. Ctr.

1/5
SPRED Total Community 9-12 pm, SPRED Rm

1/6
RCIA 10-Noon Ch. Ctr.
Upper Room 10-Noon Upper Rm.

January

1/8
Centering Prayer 7pm Ch. Ctr.
ESCYM MS & HS 6:30-8pm St. Casimir

1/9
ESCYM K-Gr 5 6:15-7:30pm, St. Casimir

1/13
RCIA 10-Noon Ch. Ctr.
Upper Room 10-Noon Upper Rm.

1/14
St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. 6:30pm Batz Rm.

1/15
Centering Prayer 7pm Ch. Ctr.
ESCYM Confirmation 6:30-8pm St. Casimir

1/16
ESCYM K-Gr 5 6:15-7:30pm St. Casimir

1/20
SPRED Mass 9am Mass Church
SPRED Reception 10-Noon Ch. Ctr.
RCIA 10-Noon
Upper Room 10-Noon Upper Room

1/22
Centering Prayer 7pm Ch. Ctr.
ESCYM MS & HS 6:30-8pm St. Casimir

1/23
ESCYM Family Pot Luck 6:15pm St. Casimir

1/26
Market Day Pick up 8:15-9am Café.

1/27
Catholic School's Week
RCIA 10-Noon Ch. Ctr.
Upper Room 10-Noon Upper Rm.

1/28
SPRED Preparation 6:30-9pm SPRED Rm.

1/29
ESCYM MS & HS 6:30-8pm St. Casimir

1/30
ESCYM K-Gr 5 6:15-7:30pm St. Casimir

1/31
Catholic East Elementary Open House
6-7:30pm

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Food For the Soul – Resource information continued from page 6

Local resources to learn about and support:

Beans and Barley: www.beansandbarley.com

Fondy Food Center: www.fondyfoodmarket.org

Growing Power: www.growingpower.org

Home Grown Wisconsin: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA): www.homegrownwisconsin.com

Outpost Natural Foods: www.outpostnaturalfoods.coop

Riverwest Food Coop: www.riverwestcoop.org

Roots Restaurant and Cellar: www.rootsmilwaukee.com

Walnut Way Conservation Corp.: www.walnutway.org
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