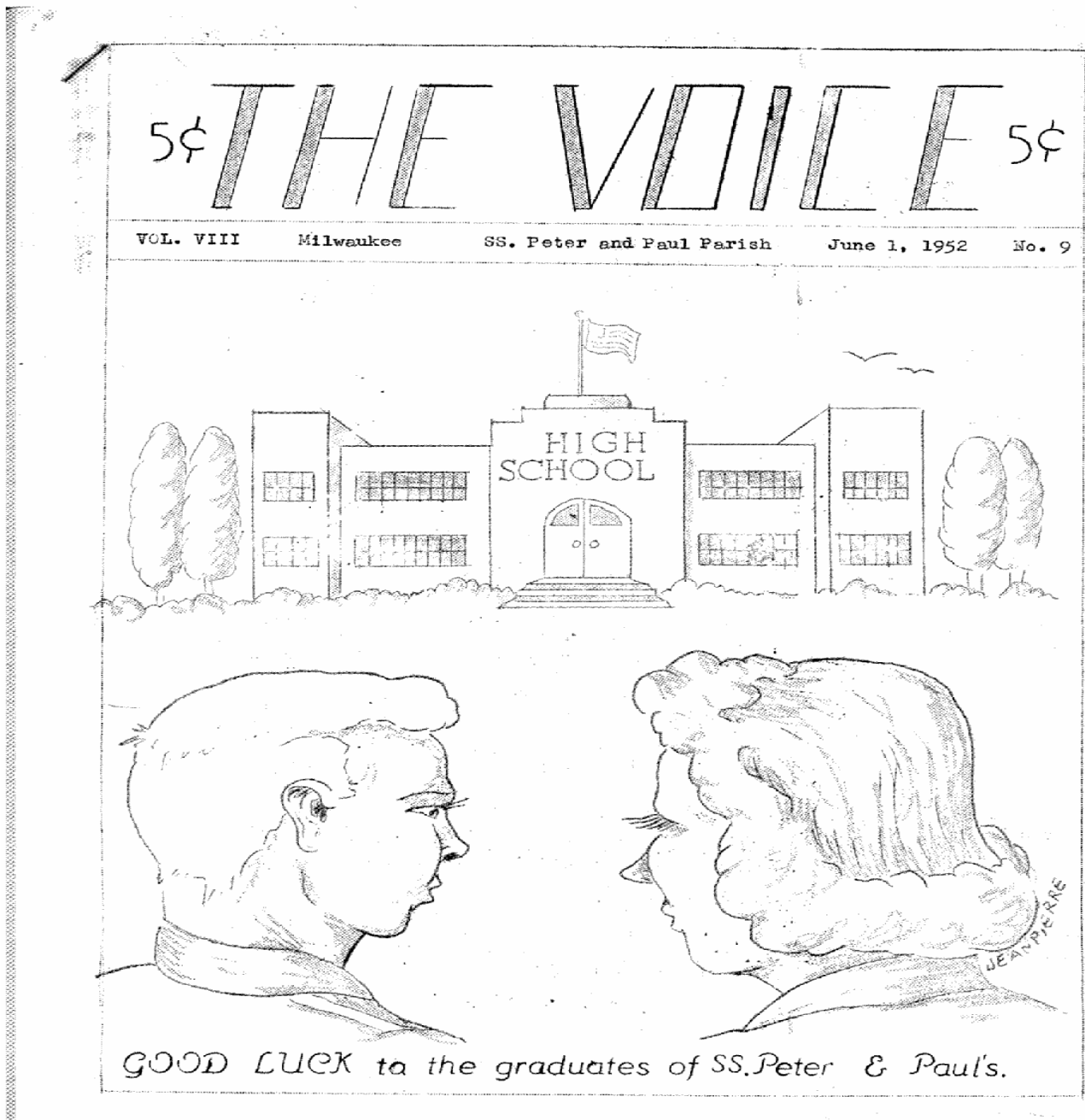


The *Voice*

SS Peter & Paul Parish, Milwaukee, WI

"The Heart of Christ in the Heart of the East Side"

Winter 2004



A page from SS Peter & Paul history: *The Voice* newsletter cover from June 1, 1952.
See Cherish the Parish, The History of SS Peter & Paul, on p.2 for information on what's happening with this project.

IN THIS ISSUE

☞ **The History of SS Peter & Paul, p.2**

☞ **The Sounds of SS Peter & Paul, p.4**

☞ **Stewardship Awards Announced, p.5**

☞ **Our Church Bells, p.5**

☞ **The Giving Tree, p.6**

☞ **New Parish Members, p.6**

☞ **Parish Calendar, p.7**

Editor’s Note:

This issue of The Voice is a little bit of retro mixed in with the new. Since retro seems to be very trendy these days, we thought, why not try it in The Voice?

Dictionary.com defines *retro* as *reminiscent of the past*, and that’s the perfect description for the *Cherish the Parish* story that begins on this page. And of course you noticed the 1952 cover page that graces this issue. What a blessing to have those reminders of our parish history.

We don’t want to celebrate the past and forget about the present, so in this issue, we celebrate the new Youth Choir, the Stewardship Awards, and our new Parish Members. Then there’s the Giving Tree and the Church Bells, a blend of tradition and new hope during this blessed season.

We hope you enjoy these stories. May you also enjoy the blessings of the season. Peace.

**Cherish the Parish
The History of SS Peter & Paul**

by Priscilla Tolan

Dart ball competition, a May Queen crowning, a chickenpox outbreak, and a Catholic Action convention. Those were the events making news in the pages of SS Peter and Paul’s newsletter, *The Voice*, back in June 1952. Filled with handwritten ads from East Side businesses such as Van’s Pastry Shop and Miller Quality Meats, the publication sold for 5 cents a copy.

Today, the yellowed, fragile newsletter is worth much more than that, according to members of Cherish the Parish, a group of SS Peter & Paul parishioners dedicated to documenting and preserving the parish’s rich history. “Younger people in the parish need to know our story,” says Monica Meagher, director of Christian Formation for the parish. “Every day

we make decisions that are disconnected from the past. And that shouldn’t be.”

We’d been through some tough years and decided to celebrate the wonderful people who had built this parish, tell their stories, and feel good about who we are.

☞ **Monica Meagher**

The origins of Cherish the Parish can be traced to a parish retreat four years ago. There, Sister Miriam Ross, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, shared some of her memories of the 1950s and ‘60s, when she lived in the SS Peter & Paul convent and taught at what was then SS Peter & Paul School.

continued on page 3

Cherish the Parish continued from page 2

“The stories came pouring out,” recalls Meagher. “Miriam talked about the school, the way things worked, the youth choir, how the buildings looked, the culture she was part of. People were just fascinated.

We realized that there was a whole treasure trove of stories out there, and that many of the people who could tell them were still alive.”

Members of the Adult Formation Committee, which Meagher coordinates, agreed that the stories needed to be collected and documented. But a series of events, including the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the Catholic Church’s sex abuse scandal, put the project on hold.

A year ago, the group decided to move forward. Says Meagher, “We’d been through some tough years and decided to celebrate the wonderful people who had built this parish, tell their stories, and feel good about who we are.”

So Cherish the Parish was born. The group kicked off its efforts with a breakfast last October featuring Rev. Steven M. Avella, a history professor at

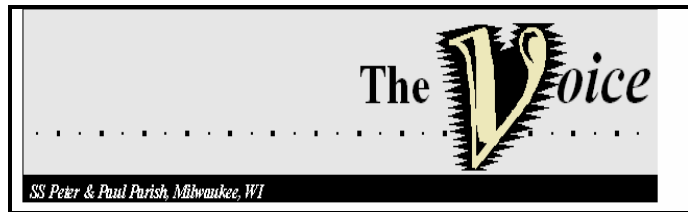
Marquette University and author of *In the Richness of the Earth: A History of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, 1843-1958*, in which SS Peter & Paul Parish is prominently featured.

A few months later, the group sponsored a fireside chat at which five former pastors of SS Peter & Paul, along with current pastor, Rev. Thomas Brundage, shared memories of parish life. The event was videotaped and is available for viewing.

Meagher describes the pastors’ stories as “funny, and touching.” One startling revelation did come to light: that each had experienced a fire on the church grounds. “They all recalled running in the middle of the night, and fire extinguishers,” says Meagher.

On October 17, Cherish the Parish held a pancake breakfast featuring historian Sr. Mary Luke Baldwin, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, talking about the years she lived and worked at SS Peter & Paul. Early next year, the group will hold a second fireside chat, this one bringing together a group of nuns, including Sr. Miriam and Sr. Mary Luke, with ties to the parish.

continued on page 5



Winter 2004 Volume 58, Number 2

The Voice is published four times a year. Please send comments or questions to the editor at j9pilar@yahoo.com

- Janine Pilarski, Editor
- Lynn Charnitz, Contributing Writer
- Daniel Miller, Contributing Writer
- Priscilla Tolan, Contributing Writer

What would you like to read about in The Voice?

Contact the editor.



The Sounds of SS Peter & Paul

Youth Choir

The SS Peter & Paul youth choir debuted on Sunday, Oct. 3rd. The choir is made up of choristers in grades 4 through 8.

At the time of this newsletter publication, the ten youth choir members include: Ana Busalacchi, Francis Klein, Veronica Lourich, Katie Koester, John Parlier, Leo Stosur, Phoebe Stosur, Casey Tolan, Hannah Trafton and Hannah Wallenkamp. Ms. Sharon Stosur, mother of choristers, Phoebe and Leo, serves as accompanist for the choir.

According to the choir director, Tom Koester, these

young people are doing more than singing at Sunday mass. They're looking forward to fun field trips, celebrating birthdays, and singing for TV masses. Plans also include singing for holiday masses on Thanksgiving morning and for the Dec. 24th Christmas Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

The youth choir ministry is to provide musical leadership for the 11 a.m. masses two to three times each month. The youth choir is scheduled to sing at 11 a.m. masses on Nov. 14, Nov. 28, and Dec. 12. To find out how you can join, call the director, Tom Koester, at 962-2443 ext. 19.



Youth Choir Members:

(top row, left to right) Adam Hansen, Casey Tolan, Hannah Trafton, Francis Klein, Emi Brahm, Tom Koester

(bottom row, left to right) John Parlier, Katie Koester, Hannah Wallenkamp, Ana Busalacchi, Veronica Laurich, Leo Stosur (not shown: Phoebe Stosur and Sharon Stosur)

Adult Music Ministry

If you're beyond youth choir age, you might consider joining the adult Music Ministry of SS Peter & Paul. There are morning and evening adult choirs, a handbell ensemble and Cantors.

The **Morning Choir** sings at either the 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. Sunday mass. The **Evening Choir** sings at the 7:00 p.m. mass each Sunday. For major liturgical events (Christmas, Holy Week) the Evening choir joins forces with the Morning choir.

The **Handbell Choir** performs twice a month at one of the Sunday morning masses. **Cantors** lead the community in song at the masses. Cantors are scheduled to sing two or three times per month.

New members are welcome. Contact Tom Koester, Director of Liturgy and Music, if you are interested in any of the Music Ministries. ☪

Cherish the Parish continued from page 3

Meanwhile, members of Cherish the Parish are also involved in organizing boxes full of old photos and other memorabilia – including that 1952 issue of *The Voice* – and making plans to preserve and display them, and interviewing older members of the parish.

A long-term goal is to publish a book of parishioners’ stories about SS Peter & Paul. Meagher says chronicling the history of a church or parish is unique because it involves not only recording major milestones in its past, but also documenting the truly “miraculous” events that make up its spiritual legacy.

“Divine interventions, serendipitous meetings, faith experiences, inspirational stories, instances when individuals felt the hand of God and were rescued from something or had their life redirected – as ministers we get to hear about these things,” she says. “And when you hear them, you want to share them. Your own faith gets stronger when you hear how God has intervened for someone else. That’s been a real impetus for me.” Anyone interested in becoming involved in Cherish the Parish is urged to call Monica Meagher at 414-962-2443. ☪

Time, Talent, Treasure

Stewardship Awards Announced

By Lynn Charnitz

We are truly gifted at SSPP with an abundance of exemplary stewards who give generously of their time, talent and treasure. Many of our parishioners demonstrate the true meaning of stewardship by sharing their gifts in the parish, the neighborhood and the community.

The Stewardship Commission is honored to announce that Dan Miller has been selected as the 2004 Steward of the Year. ‘Big Dan’, as he is affectionately known by his choirmates, is also active in the Block Party, Summer Solstice and was recently discerned to Parish Council.

Stewardship also recognizes Deacon Tom Hunt with a special “Heart of Christ” award. Nearly all parish ministries feel Tom’s presence, as he connects with each of us in his special way.

In addition, several individuals have been named as “Dedicated Disciples of Christ” for their ongoing contributions to our parish: Joanne Kolodzik, Julie Revane and Joan Squire. Please join in asking God’s continued blessing on all these individuals. The award presentations take place at the Volunteer Thank You Party on Nov. 6. ☪

SSPP History

Our Church Bells



Did you know...

- ...there are three bells in the church tower.
- ...three bells together are called a *peale*.
- ...the bells are made of cast bronze metal.
- ...they were made by Stuck Stede Manufacturing circa 1890.
- ...the bells can be rung at any time using an electronic switch.
- ...each bell rings a different musical note.
- ...the larger the diameter of the bell, the lower the note.
- ...our largest bell weighs between 1300 and 1500 pounds!

Next time you hear the bells of SS Peter & Paul, you might just have more to think about. ☪

The Giving Tree

The Christmas tree is where you place your gifts for the ones you love. Now that the season of giving is upon us, we can extend our gift lists by participating in one of the Christmas traditions at SS Peter & Paul - the Holiday Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is a way for us to show our Christian love for one another as Christ taught us.

Traditionally, the tree goes up the Sunday after Thanksgiving. It is placed in the front of the church at the altar steps. The branches are filled with gift tags and each tag has a gift idea. The tree tags hold a variety of gift ideas, in a variety of price ranges. And there are lots of tags for practical items that are so much appreciated by those who need them.

The Giving Tree is made possible by the volunteer efforts of the 4th Tuesday Group. To make the selection of recipient groups, they focus on organizations that SS Peter & Paul members are involved in. After the recipient organizations are carefully considered and chosen, the 4th Tuesday Group members set about the task of making the gift tags using recycled Christmas cards. Each tag identifies the gift idea and the recipient organization.

So many groups have benefited from the generosity of the SS Peter & Paul community in past years. Last year, the recipient organizations were Guest House, East Side Senior Services, Ladies of Charity, Franciscan Peacemakers and Casa Maria. Because of the generosity of SS Peter and Paul parish members, over 600 gifts were distributed to those organizations.

Gifts should be returned to the church by mid-December so they can be distributed in time for Christmas. Watch the bulletin for the exact dates.

It is said that in giving we receive. Consider showing a little of your love in the form of a gift for the Giving Tree. ☪



Welcome to SSPP

New Parish Members

SS Peter & Paul is always happy to welcome new members to our parish community. Three times a year, new parish members are invited to a dinner where they can meet each other, and meet with parish staff and parish council members. It's an evening of informal conversation, good food and sharing. The latest new parishioner dinner was held on October 27, 2004 in the church center. The dinner invitees were these new parish members:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Virginia Artz | Lynn and Daniel Russo |
| Rebecca Glieber | Angela and Emilio Russo-Cordova |
| Eric Olson | Bob Schwalbach |
| Timothy Osowski | Shannon Solberg |
| Christopher Pflanz | Theresa Wolf |

We welcome you all to SS Peter & Paul. Thank you for joining our tradition! ☪



∞ 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.

November 2

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Church Center
 Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas
 Night to Remember, 7:00 pm, Church

November 3

Parish Council, 6:30 pm, Church Center

November 4

Just Faith, 9–11am, Church Center

November 6

Volunteer Appreciation Night, 6:00 pm, Cafeteria

November 7

Apostles' Café, 8:00 pm, Church Center

November 8

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, 6:30 pm, Church Center

November 9

Centering Prayer, 7:15pm, Church Center
 Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas

November 10

Stewardship, 6:30 pm, Batz Room

November 11

Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas
 SPRED Preparation, 6:15 pm, SPRED Room

November 12

Scripture with Bishop Sklba, 7 pm, Holy Rosary Parish

November 13

Market Day Pick-up, 8:15 am, Cafeteria
 SSPP Women's Group, 9:30-Noon, Church Center
 Family Day

November 16

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Church Center
 Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas

November 17

Administrative Services, 6:30 pm, Batz Room

November 18

Just Faith, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Church Center

November 20

SPRED Community, 9:30 am, SPRED Room

November 21

SPRED Reception, after mass, Church Center

November 22

St. Vincent de Paul, 6:30 pm, Church Center
 Peacemakers, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria

November 23

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Church Center
 Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas

November 25

Thanksgiving Day

November 29

SPRED Preparation, 6:15 pm, SPRED Room

November 30

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Church Center
 Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas

December 1

Parish Council, 6:30 pm, Church Center

December 2

Just Faith, 9-11 am, Church Center

December 4

SPRED Community, 9:30 am, SPRED Room

December 5

Cookie Bake Sale, after mass, Church Center
 Apostles' Café, 8:00 pm, Church Center

December 7

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Church Center
 Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas

December 8

Stewardship, 6:30 pm, Batz Room

December 9

Just Faith, 9-11 am, Chiapas

December 11

Market Day Pick-up, 8:15 am, Cafeteria
 SSPP Women's Group, 9:30-Noon, Church Center
 Single Vision, 6:30 pm, Church Center

December 13

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, 6:30 pm, Church Center

December 14

Centering Prayer, 7:15pm, Church Center
 Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas

December 15

Administrative Services, 6:30 pm, Batz Room

December 16

Just Faith, 9-11 am, Chiapas

December 18

SPRED Community, 9:30 am, SPRED Room

December 20

Peacemakers, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria

December 21

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Church Center
 Just Faith, 7:00 pm, Chiapas

December 27

St. Vincent de Paul, 6:30 pm, Church Center

December 28

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Church Center

December 30

Just Faith, 9:00 am, Church Center

Thanksgiving Prayer

"O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all;
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency,
 bestir my compassion,
 and be concerned enough to help,
By word and deed,
 those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen."

Samuel F. Pugh ☩

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