

MAY 2011

Sacred Heart

Catholic Church

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A Letter From Our Pastor

Living Joyfully and Thankfully

Dear Parishioners,

May is a wonderful month with all sorts of celebrations. Each year, we celebrate Mother's Day; this year on May 8. Thirty-one children in our parish will make their First Communion on the weekends of May 1 and 8. And many young people are preparing for their graduations from junior high, high school, or college during May or in June. Also this year, we will be hosting the Interfaith Baccalaureate Celebration for Hopedale High School on June 1. They, too, will move onto a new stage in their lives. These are all occasions worthy of celebration.

May is also the month when many others all across America will also be experiencing a new stage in their lives. I'm thinking of those who came into the Church through Baptism or Reception at the Easter Vigil. Because



Easter Sunday was so late this year, just one week before the first of May, they'll spend this month as new Catholics.

In some ways, the Second Readings at our Sunday celebrations of Mass this May will be directed especially to them, although the rest of us can certainly benefit as well. That's because there are frequent echoes of the

baptismal liturgy in 1 Peter, from which the readings come. Many scholars think that letter was built around a homily for Baptism that was reworked into a letter and sent out to a wider audience.

In particular, I want to invite us all, new and long-time Catholics alike, to think about 1 Peter 2:9, part of the reading for May 22: "You are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you

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Sacred Heart, Celebrating 75 Years!



Warming up to the Stewardship Dimension

A view from the pew by Matt Smith

Matt Smith is a convener of Sacred Heart Hopedale's Stewardship Team

After our serious blast of snow and cold in the Hopedale winter of 2010-11, I'm seeing a lot of smiles this spring. Days are longer, warmer and brighter. The growth of grass, trees and flowers is upon us. Our neighbors, friends and children are happy to be outside. Spring sports are here!

On a sunny but cold late March day, I walked the dog down the street. Surprisingly, children were out playing. Suddenly, the boy carrying his "tools of play" – a Wiffle Ball bat in one hand and a metal bat in the other – and trying to avoid being captured by the "enemy," proclaimed to the other kids, **"I'm in a different dimension."** "That's one way not to get captured!" I thought. I smiled and wanted to tell him that I was in "a different dimension," too! But I didn't want to scare him and figured he didn't want to hear about my experience of stewardship at Sacred Heart Church.

As part of the stewardship dimension at Sacred Heart Parish, I think I am part of more than a few households that are warming up to a "new" idea. Stewardship is the Gospel

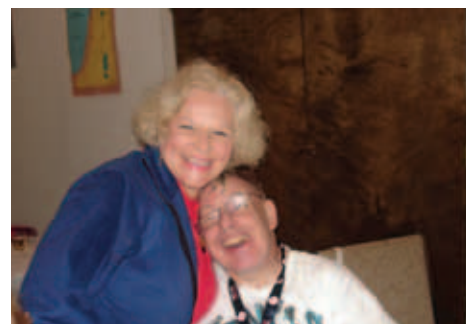
teaching that all people, things and resources in our lives are ultimately gifts from God. For some, this spiritual/alternative approach might seem too abstract or unrealistic. It might be a dimension that sounds as bizarre as that kid on the front lawn from "a different dimension." But read on – you don't want to be "one-dimensional" (aka boring!), do you?

Catholic Stewardship Consultants was hired by our parish in August of 2008. The company has guided us for three annual stewardship cycles. With its expert guidance, we have learned and taught our parish community that STEWARDSHIP is not just a "smoke-and-mirrors" approach to fundraising, but is living in, "a different dimension." This dimension is at the core of being a Roman Catholic Christian Church, a community of believers and individual disciples. If you think that this is "new age" Catholicism, it is – and it isn't. Stewardship is as old as the Old and New Testaments – when devout Jews returned their best "first fruits" to the Lord (See 2 Chr 31:5). 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us that,

"as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." Stewardship is also as "new in this age" as the insight we receive from modern organizational theory and the 1992 U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*.

Our U.S. Bishops remind us that it is by virtue of our baptism that we are to care for our families, communities and Church, by giving of our time, talent, and treasure. Our conventional wisdom at Scouting events, sports and school tell us that these organizations and our communities work when everyone is involved.

Yet there are barriers to stewardship. People say that they don't have the time, talent or money/resources to help. Each person must evaluate as to whether this barrier is truly there, or whether it is a convenient rationalization for not contributing his or her fair share of time, talent and treasure to the Church or other organizations. Furthermore, we may perceive external barriers, as we may have gripes with the leaders, membership or direction of the group. I





Home, Sweet Home!

Sacred Heart Welcomes New Catholics into Our Parish Family

Year after year, courageous souls who have sought out the Catholic Church come “home.” They have discovered the radiant truth of Christ, and they are not turning away.

This Easter, Sacred Heart had the honor of welcoming several candidates (baptized Christians desiring to be confirmed) and catechumens (persons aspiring to be baptized and to receive all of the Sacraments of Initiation) into full communion with the Church.

Among them were Marie, Alex and Joshua Palomares, as well as Amy Paquette and Holly Curran.

Each of their stories is unique, and bears testimony to the grace of God which is always at work in our lives.

Marie, Alex and Joshua Palomares



When Marie Palomares returned to her hometown of Milford, Mass., about 13 years ago, she found that she was no longer welcomed at her former Protestant church for various reasons. A bit dismayed, she began “church-hunting,” and eventually wound up inside the doors of Sacred Heart.

“My children, Alex, 13, and Joshua, 10, had become friends at school with the children of long-standing Sacred Heart parishioner Jan Sanuik,” Marie says. “One thing led to another, and Jan soon brought me to Sacred Heart. I knew I had found a church I was willing to walk into week after week! I believe that God brought me to Jan, and through her, I came to the Church.”

So far, Marie has had a fantastic experience at our parish.

“I feel welcome at Sacred Heart,” she says. “Most of the people are very pleasant and kind. My boys are also taking to the Catholic Faith like fish to water.”

At the Easter Vigil, Marie, Alex and Joshua received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. Furthermore, Joshua was baptized.

“Now as part of the Catholic Church, I look forward to

my sons understanding and learning more about what I have been trying to teach them all of their lives,” Marie says. “I have always told them that there is one God, someone they will need to answer to in the end. I am also looking forward to being united with my children in faith. My husband, William, was also raised Catholic.”

Amy Paquette

Coming “home” has been a long and meaningful journey for Amy Paquette. In fact, she has been attending Sacred Heart for about nine years with her husband, Brian, and their children, Madelyn, 10, Caitie, 8, and Griffin, 3. Brian was raised Catholic, and thus far he and Amy have been raising their children as Catholics together.



Along the road, there have been many sign posts that have helped Amy discover God’s call for her to join the Church.

“I have had some really strong tests of my faith in the last few years,” Amy says. “For example, I witnessed the unwavering faith of my husband as my mother passed away eight years ago. In fact, he has always had a strong connection with God and with the principles of the Catholic Faith. Furthermore, walking alongside my twin sister who has cancer has really caused me to rely on my faith in God.”

By being active at Sacred Heart, she has witnessed the dynamic beauty of Catholicism.

“Seeing our children be baptized and receive First Communion, as well as attending Catholic ceremonies, has brought me to really like our parish community and grow fond of the rituals of Catholicism,” Amy says. “I also really appreciate the idea of being able to receive the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ into my body and soul every week.”

This Easter, Amy was baptized, confirmed, and received her First Communion.

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SACRED HEART

Show Your Support:



In the “good old days,” a green Celtics jersey with the number 33 was easily recognizable. Without even reading the name on the back, you instantly knew you were looking at a Larry Bird fan.

The days of the Boston Garden are long gone, but apparel for Celtics fans and fans of other professional and collegiate teams lives on. Here at Sacred Heart, we are taking fan gear and apparel and applying the same idea to a fantastic line of parish items, from T-shirts to sweatshirts to logo-blazoned mugs for your morning cup of coffee. It’s all available at THE Heart WEAR™ store.

THE Heart WEAR™ store was an idea born from the Pastoral Planning Team. As our 75th Anniversary celebration approaches in July, there has been much discussion on different ways to honor our past, present, and future.

“The idea is that gear, as typically seen and sold at our schools and by our sports teams, was a fine way to promote the name and mission of the parish,” says Matt Smith, store manager. “In September of 2010, THE Heart WEAR™ store was launched.”

While working on ideas, Matt quickly realized he needed help from a professional. He reached out to Roland Arcand of Onias Sportswear. As their boys played ball on the little league fields together, Roland and Matt collaborated on different products and promotional ideas.

“We started off with some basic tees, sweatshirts and hoodies,” Matt says. “Roland wisely suggested that we add long sleeve tees, fleece wear, mugs, winter hats and blankets. A 75th Anniversary Coffee/Cocoa mug was





Sport Our Parish Logo!

added, too. We have filled almost 100 orders. We hope to continue our work and ministry through our anniversary year; maybe even beyond if we have the help.”

THE Heart WEAR™ store is also a stewardship ministry. From its modest profits, 10 percent of the proceeds are tithed to our twin parish, St. Gerard’s in Haiti.

“Our ministry and mission is not economic profit, but to promote and have pride in our Catholic heritage in Hopedale,” Matt says. “We are called to be a stewardship people: sharing time, talent and treasure with God and others.”

To order HeartWEAR, pick up a form from one of the church entrances and return it in the collection basket or at the parish office. You can also check out all the gear at the display table located outside the sacristy lounge.

“The displays are helpful,” Matt says. “Yet we’re sorely in need of a designer’s touch. I regret to say it’s starting to look too much like a man’s closet, and that can’t be a good thing! So we need some creative touches for design/display, marketing and sales. Just a few hours a month from a few people could really help this ministry take off!”

To offer your talents to THE Heart WEAR™ store ministry, please e-mail Matt Smith at churchguysh@yahoo.com

“We know we’ll never sell gear like the Pats, Celts, Sox and Bruins,” Matt says. “Yet the pride in SHC Hopedale is growing. And most importantly, those who are helping in this ministry are, as St. Paul states, ‘putting on the attitude of Jesus Christ.’”



FEEL SEPARATED FROM THE CHURCH BY:

Lifestyle? Divorce? Clergy Abuse? “Invalid” Marriage?

We would like to hear from you!

Name: _____

I prefer to be contacted by:

Phone: _____

Best time to reach me is: _____

Email: _____



Stewardship Dimension *continued from page 2*

am guilty of rationalizing that “I do the ‘Church thing,’ so why should I coach, help at Scouts or at school?” Are my decisions right? Are yours?

One insight I learned at the January 2011 Sacred Heart Parish Retreat was that we are better off not using the “V” word. (V= volunteer, but don’t repeat it at Church!) To say, “I v_____ at Sacred Heart” means that it’s optional. Of course, it’s always our choosing, yet our retreat leader, Deacon David Krueger, challenged us to ask ourselves whether we “v_____” when we do the lawn or laundry, cook, and drive our children to school and practice. Most would agree that we are doing what is essential as a family member. He pointed out that we don’t v_____ at God’s house and within our parish family, but we participate, as we belong and it’s what we do as a disciple and true member of the Body of Christ that is the Church!

Sacred Heart Hopedale has progressed in the stewardship walk over these past three years. People have responded to our Ministry Fairs and surveys. We have seen a great increase in the number of individuals, households and families active in ministry. We have greater participation and attendance at Mass and other services. We have seen an increase in formal financial commitments so that we are able to cover our annual operating expenses through our weekly/annual offerings. Yet, it is 200 of the 850 households that make up Sacred Heart Hopedale who are formally committed to the stewardship dimension. If you are in the stewardship dimension, thank you, and please e-mail me at churchguysh@yahoo.com, or speak to me and tell me how it is working for you. If you have not yet embraced the stewardship dimension, please contact me, tell me what we are failing to communicate to you, or what about Catholicism or Sacred Heart Church’s stewardship dimension that you are not aware of or agreeing with.

And that kid at the house down the street? His household has membership at Sacred Heart Church Hopedale! I wonder if he and his family have discovered the STEWARDSHIP Dimension? Maybe I should introduce myself and invite them to tell me what they think about the parish?

Home, Sweet Home! *continued from page 3*



Holly Curran

As Holly Curran was growing up, she noticed an emptiness inside of her, a void that seemed to hang over her life. Over five years ago, she began searching for a deeper relationship with God and a religion that would fulfill her desires. Now that she has found the fullness of

the truth in the Catholic Faith, Christ has filled her aching emptiness, and she can’t help but rejoice.

“Being Catholic has given me the stability that I really needed in my life,” Holly says. “I absolutely love the Catholic Faith!”

The best part of it all is that she has someone to share her joy with – her fiancé and RCIA sponsor, Philip Alcaindo.

“Philip has been such a big inspiration in my faith life,” Holly says. “I look forward to raising our family in the Catholic Faith and look forward to learning more and more about my newfound beliefs.”

Holly received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion this Easter.

To our new Catholics we say, “Welcome home!” Please pray for them and continue to welcome them into our parish community.

MAY 2011



Sacred Heart Church Calendar

Please see page eight of the newsletter for daily and weekly Mass times. This calendar is compiled a month before publication, and dates and times of events may have changed. Please confirm with the parish office, or check our Web site, www.shchopedale.org.

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 May 8:30a Mass 9:30a Baptismal Preparation- Parish House 10:30a Mass 10:30a First Eucharist Liturgy	2 9:00a Mass 9:30a Job Search Workshop 7:00p -9:00p Girl Scout Leader Meetings	3 9:00a Mass	4 9:00a Mass 9:30a -11:00a Mom To Mom	5 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop 9:00a Mass 7:30p -9:00p Women's Prayer Group	6 9:00a -12:00p First Friday Adoration 9:00a Communion Service 8:00p -9:00p AA Meeting	7 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass 4:00p First Eucharist Liturgy
8 8:30a Mass 10:30a Mass 10:30a First Eucharist Liturgy 11:45a -12:15p Anointing of the Sick	9 9:00a Mass 9:30a Job Search Workshop 4:00p -8:00p Metrowest Medical CTR. Blood Drive	10 9:00a Mass 10:30a Draper Place Communion Service 7:30p -9:30p Parish Life Night	11 9:00a Mass 9:30a -11:00a Mom To Mom	12 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop 9:00a Mass 11:30a -2:30p Senior Lunch Club 7:00p -8:30p Men's Prayer Group 7:30p -9:00p Women's Bible Study	13 9:00a Communion Service 8:00p -9:00p AA Meeting Women's Retreat -	14 St. Francis & Therese Catholic Worker House selling Bread at all Masses 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass 4:00p Giada Loretta Lima Baptism Women's Retreat -
15 St. Francis & Therese Catholic Worker House selling Bread at all Masses 8:30a Mass 10:30a Mass 10:30a Ella Brooke Stokes Baptism Women's Retreat	16 9:00a Mass 9:30a Job Search Workshop 7:00p -9:00p Boy Scout Pack Meeting	17 9:00a Mass 5:00p Mustard Seed	18 9:00a Mass 9:30a -11:00a Mom To Mom	19 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop 9:00a Mass 7:30p -9:00p Women's Prayer group	20 9:00a Communion Service 8:00p -9:00p AA Meeting	21 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass
22 8:30a Mass 10:30a Mass	23 9:00a Mass 9:30a Job Search Workshop 7:30p -9:30p Pastoral Planning Meeting	24 9:00a Mass 10:30a Mass at Draper Place	25 9:00a Mass 9:30a -11:00a Mom To Mom	26 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop 9:00a Mass 7:00p -8:30p Men's Prayer Group 7:30p -9:00p Women's Bible Study Life Line Screening	27 9:00a Communion Service 8:00p -9:00p AA Meeting	28 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass
29 9:30a Mass	30 7:00a Mass Memorial Day - No School Office Closed	31 9:00a Mass	1 June 9:00a Mass 9:30a -11:00a Mom To Mom	2 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop 9:00a Mass 7:30p -9:00p Women's Prayer Group	3 9:00a -12:00p First Friday Adoration 9:00a Communion Service	4 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass



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Mass Schedule

Saturday

3 p.m. Reconciliation
4 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses
*(September through May –
in effect after Labor Day)*
9:30 a.m. Mass ONLY
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Weekdays

9 a.m. Mass – Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. Communion Service
and Adoration – Friday

Holy Days

7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
(Evening before Holy Day)
9 a.m. Mass

Living Joyfully and Thankfully *continued from front cover*

may announce the praises’ of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

That’s an exciting statement! We gained a whole new status when we were baptized, whether we were infants or adults, whether it was a long time ago or just this Easter. Instead of merely being one of God’s creatures, we became one of God’s children. Once baptized, we became citizens of a “holy nation,” who are God’s own people. God’s grace acts in the Sacrament of Baptism to make us “new creations” (2 Cor 5:17).

But the new status we receive as God’s children is not for our personal benefit alone. God calls us out of the darkness of sin and error into His wonderful light of truth and holiness, and that is a marvelous thing that should give us great joy. But God’s call is issued for a purpose, St. Peter tells us, so that we may announce God’s praises.

How do we do that? By using some of our time in prayer

and worship, certainly. But we also announce God’s praises by sharing with others what God has done for us. We do so by our actions, when we use our talents in building up God’s Church and in serving the people around us. We announce God’s praises when we return some of the treasure entrusted to us back to Him for His service.

May, then, will be a joyful month, as throughout the Easter season we not only celebrate Jesus’ risen life but our own new life in Christ. Let us offer a grateful response by living as faithful stewards of everything that He has entrusted to us. Live joyfully and thankfully this May!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. William C. Konicki, I.V. Dei