



08.2013

Saint Paul

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

An Update on Our Parish's Capital Appeal

Our parish began our “More Than We Can Imagine” Capital Appeal in March of this year. The purpose of this appeal is to raise money to facilitate the expansion of our parish’s physical properties so that we can keep up with the considerable growth we have experienced over the last few years.

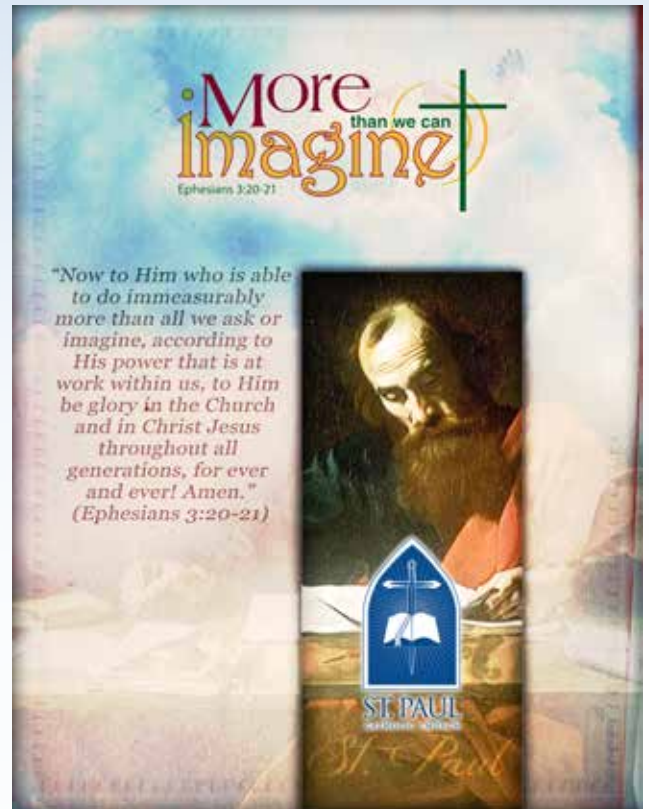
“The parish is growing by leaps and bounds,” Fr. Doug Halsema says. “In order to continue to sustain that growth, we have to have the facilities where these groups can meet and grow.”

One of the major issues that our parish is seeking to address through this appeal is the need for more dedicated meeting spaces and a bigger community space for large parish functions.

“Community space is currently diminished by sharing space with the gymnasium and school classrooms in the existing Parish Center,” says Donnie Plombon, parish resource specialist for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee’s Office of Stewardship and Development. “The current plan is to build a new gymnasium and four new school classrooms. This will allow conversion of the existing gymnasium to a large community space and existing school classrooms to meeting spaces within the existing Parish Center.”

The active phase of the appeal started on March 6, and ended on June 1. During this time, the members of our parish were asked to make pledges to the appeal. By the end of the active phase, the overall participation rate was nearly 25 percent, with 347 of 1,430 registered families making pledges to the appeal.

The end of this phase of the appeal does not mean that the time to make pledges is over, however, or that there is no longer a need for people to participate. Donations and pledges



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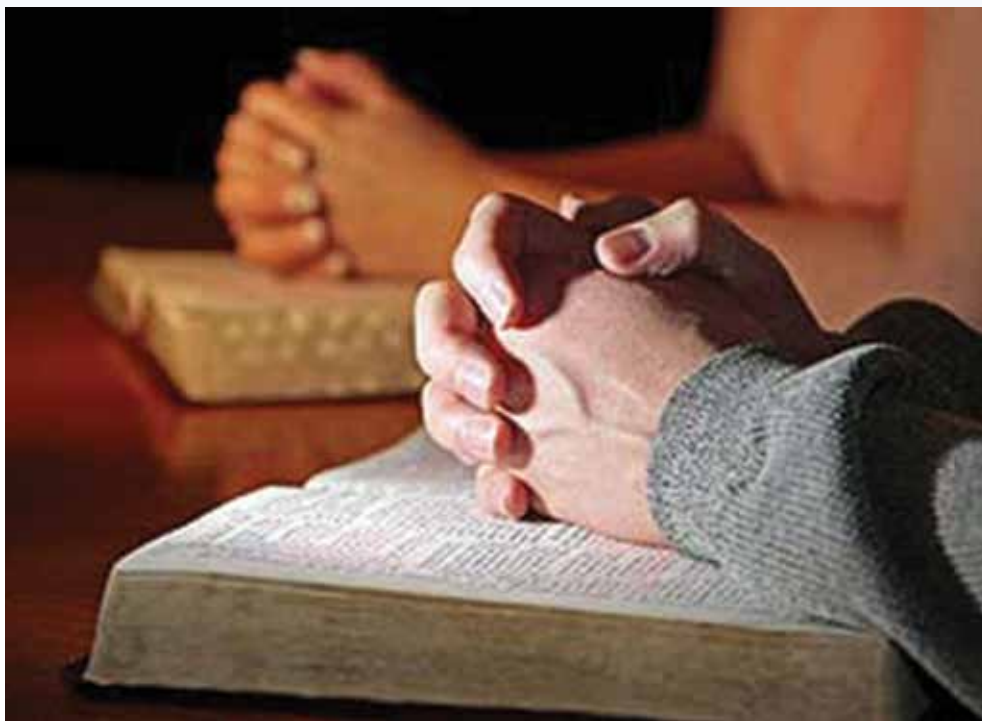
Stewardship's "Supreme Teacher"

Following Christ's Example

Former President and five-star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head — that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face myriad difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word and example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral document *Stewardship: A Disciple's*



Response, "In Jesus' teaching and life, self-emptying is fundamental. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, He is filled with the Father's will, and He is fulfilled in just this way" (20).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talents and treasure and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to

Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.

"Christ's life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living."

A Letter From Our Pastor
*“Much Will be Required of the
Person Entrusted with Much”*

Dear Parishioners,

No matter your situation in life, chances are there is someone out there who has more than you. Too often we may hesitate to follow stewardship as a way of life because we are waiting for someone more blessed than we are to show the way.

You may be aware that the Scripture readings we hear at each Mass are part of a three-year cycle. In general, the Gospel passages in Cycle A are from Matthew; Cycle B is principally Mark; and Cycle C, the year we are now in, is primarily from Luke. John is mixed in, and is especially used during Lent. We are in what might be called a “Luke year”.

During this month of August, as we hear the Gospels from Luke, we need to be acutely aware of the stewardship messages found there. Jesus uses a parable on the first Sunday to remind us of an important stewardship lesson. He precedes the parable by reminding us all, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions” (Luke 12:15). You and I both know that God does not judge us based upon what we may have accumulated during our lifetimes, but based upon how we lived our lives, and especially how we used those gifts — those possessions.

The parable focuses on a “rich man” who builds larger grain bins to store his abundant harvests. God calls the man a fool and reminds him that growing rich for himself is not as important as growing rich in the sight of God. The very next week (the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Luke again tells us how Jesus warns and cautions His Disciples. “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Luke 12:34). The Lord warns them that they do not know what day or what hour He will return, and summarizes it all with another important insight into what is expected of us: “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more” (Luke 12:48).



You see, we are not “off the hook” if someone else has more gifts but fails to use them well. Stewardship demands that each of us use our gifts, and each of us is gifted whether we want to admit it or not, to serve God and others. Luke’s implied stewardship messages come full circle in the Gospel reading for the last Sunday of the month — August 25. The last sentence we will hear during the Gospels for this month is, “For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.” (Luke 13:30)

That admonition from the Lord has always seemed a bit confusing. It more or less says that to be first, we need to be last; and if we are first, we may be last. I think perhaps all of these messages, including the first and last one, are cautions to us that we cannot be complacent and we cannot take salvation and holiness for granted. We need to work at

them. We are not measured by our possessions; God indeed does expect a lot of us, no matter how small or extensive our gifts may be; and regardless how holy we may strive to be, it is God who will judge; it is by His grace that we will be saved.

In the midst of all these magnificent stewardship messages, we celebrate the Assumption of our Blessed Mother on August 15, and Jesus prompts us again, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it” (Luke 11:28). God bless you all!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Doug Halsema
Pastor

Welcome, Fr. Kevin McQuone!

After saying goodbye to Fr. Michael Nixon last month, we now welcome our new associate pastor, Fr. Kevin McQuone, who comes to us from St. Dominic Catholic Church in Panama City.

Fr. Kevin was born in Ohio — however, the McQuone family moved to Tallahassee when he was 3 years old.

“My father was a pharmacist at the local hospital, and my mom was a local teacher,” he says. “I’m the youngest of five — I have four older sisters, and I now have a few nieces and nephews among them.”

Although Fr. Kevin came from a practicing Catholic family, and had attended Catholic school while growing up, it was when he went to college that he started to come alive in his faith.

“I stayed in town for college, and went to Florida State [University],” Fr. Kevin says. “My faith really took off when I began to understand it more, and integrate it into my life and really choose it for myself, when I was part of the Catholic Student Union at Florida State.”

In the fall of his junior year, he first felt the call of the priesthood — or, as he says, he began “discerning unexpectedly.”

“I did not foresee it — I hadn’t considered it before and I didn’t even think I needed to consider it,” says Fr. Kevin. “It came as quite a shock! It’s interesting because I know very clearly when I started discerning, but I didn’t really know where it would end up.”

Putting his trust in God, Fr. Kevin entered the seminary in 2004 after graduating from FSU with a degree in Spanish. He spent one year at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami, before going to St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach. During 2007-08, he completed his pastoral year at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Milton. Fr. Kevin was ordained in 2010, along with friends Fr. Michael and Fr. Chris LeBlanc, the latter of whom serves at Nativity of Our Lord parish here in Pensacola.

One aspect of the priesthood that Fr. Kevin has come to treasure is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



“I can tell you now that Confession has really been something that I have come to love and appreciate more and more,” Fr. Kevin says. “I think I was more terrified for my first Confession as a priest than my first Confession as a child! But to see the Lord working so very powerfully in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is something that I have felt very blessed to be a part of as a priest, and I’ve encouraged people all the more to take advantage of the beauty of the sacrament — to get over the fear and look forward to the mercy.”

After having served at St. Dominic for the past three years, Fr. Kevin is now excited for his new chapter here at St. Paul. He is

especially looking forward to working with the parish school.

“I’ve never been at a place with a school,” he says. “Being chaplain to the school and getting involved with that is something that will be a good growing challenge, and is something I’m looking forward to.”

He is also eager to get to know the St. Paul community, and for the members of our community to get to know him, as well.

“Fr. Michael has a great sense of humor, and I hope to have one too — I have a pretty dry wit,” Fr. Kevin says. “Life is too short to take too seriously!”

Indeed, Fr. Kevin looks forward to closely working with the members of the parish family in promoting and living out our faith here at St. Paul.

“I want the parish to know that I’ve come to serve and to use whatever gifts God has given me to bless them,” he says. “I look forward to the ways they will bless me! For the priesthood and the lay vocations to really thrive, they have to work together. I look forward to the ways that we can work with one another and support one another. I love the Church and I love God’s people — I think that’s what I’d look for in a priest and what I hope to bring.”

A Look Back at Recent Parish Events

Our parish community recently celebrated a number of important milestones and events. Some of these included the Altar Server Awards, where Kristin McWherter received the Knights of Columbus Altar Server of the Year award for the diocese. We also said “goodbye” to Fr. Michael during his last Mass at St. Paul.



Parish Twinning: Bringing Two Different Parishes Together Under One Faith



The founding members of the Parish Twinning Ministry at Spider Rock in the Canyon de Chelly.



This liturgical banner was adapted from Navajo art.

It was around seven years ago when Fr. Doug Halsema, along with a small group of parishioners, started to brainstorm ways to build a relationship with a parish of a different culture than St. Paul's. Since going outside of the United States would be complicated, he began to look for parishes within the U.S. and discovered St. Michaels Mission, on the Navajo reservation in St. Michaels, Ariz. Fr. Doug consulted with several members of the then-newly formed Stewardship Committee, and began to make plans to establish a "twinning" relationship with St. Michaels.

In 2007, Mary and Nick Thorpe vacationed with family in Arizona and also took the opportunity to visit St. Michaels. The Thorpes were able to meet then-pastor Fr. Gil Schneider, and they returned with renewed enthusiasm for the possibility of twinning with the parish.

"The Thorpes and I were very interested in learning more about the Navajo and how they blended their culture into their Catholic faith," says ministry leader Christie Eadler. "At that point, our small committee began planning a trip to St. Michaels to meet the parishioners and find out if they had any interest in developing a sister relationship."

That following March, a group of five St. Paul parishioners — Christie, Nick, Mary, Bruce McDonald and Dan Summers

— traveled to visit St. Michaels. During their trip, they were welcomed by a traditional Navajo dinner prepared by the members of the Blessed Kateri Circle, toured the St. Michael Indian School — which was established by St. Katharine Drexel in 1902 — and were able to meet many of the parishioners.

"We celebrated Mass each day at St. Michaels and experienced the Navajo influences that have been incorporated," says Christie. "We were invited to attend a Catholic Navajo wedding at St. Michaels, which was such a blessing. After Sunday Mass, the parish had coffee and donuts, and we shared a DVD with the parishioners about St. Paul Parish, our history and our interest in developing a pastoral sister relationship between our parishes. They were very receptive to the idea. Our group spent a lot of time talking with Fr. Gil and the other Franciscans living there, learning more about the Navajo and what we might expect from our sister relationship."

Upon the group's return to St. Paul, they shared their experiences with the parish and continued to keep in touch with Fr. Gil. The two parishes shared news and prayer requests, and about two years later, in April 2010, five St. Michaels parishioners came to visit Pensacola. St. Paul hosted several events for the visitors, including a brunch and a dinner, and they were able to meet St. Paul's ministry leaders,

Parish Twinning continued from previous page



The original mission, which is now a museum.



St. Michaels Mission Church, behind the Friary.

priests and other parishioners. The group also took the St. Michaels parishioners on a driving tour of Pensacola, and made visits to the Naval Aviation Museum and the beach.

“Their last evening with us, [Pastoral Council chair] Diane Wilkinson and her husband, Chris, hosted a crawfish boil at their home,” Christie says. “It was a huge event that I think they really enjoyed, and they got to experience one of our Southern traditions. Later that evening, each of the five visitors talked about their lives on the reservation, their Catholic faith and their hopes for what twinning could mean to our parishes. Everyone present thoroughly appreciated what they shared with us.”

After the visit, the Twinning Ministry continued to correspond with the St. Michaels parishioners. Over the next few years, although the parishes continued to share news and prayer requests, the conversation became less frequent. The ministry began to meet less often, and both parishes were unsure of what to do next.

A few months ago, Nick and Christie decided to jumpstart the ministry — they have set up frequent meeting times, have welcomed three new members, and have begun to brainstorm more ways to build the relationship between the two parishes. This past July, they created several cards depicting

St. Paul’s mosaic of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, which were available for parishioners to sign over the course of several weekends. The cards were then sent to St. Michaels just prior to the feast day of St. Kateri on July 14.

“We wanted to reflect our sincere interest and caring for our sister parish,” says Christie. “We’ve also talked about setting up a Skype session with St. Michaels Twinning members. Long-term plans involve another pilgrimage to St. Michaels with the purpose of spending more time with the parishioners.”

Christie encourages others to participate in the Twinning Ministry in order to learn about the Navajo culture, and to create relationships with the St. Michaels parishioners.

“By promoting the Twinning Ministry, we hope to enlighten our parish on the bond we have with our Navajo brothers and sisters, which is our Catholic faith,” Christie says. “We also hope to educate our parish on the various aspects of the Navajo culture so that they may gain a new appreciation for their rich history as Native Americans.”

For more information, please contact Christie Eadler at 850-516-7985.

Address Service Requested

An Update on Our Parish's Capital Appeal

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are still being accepted and collected, and parishioners can still get a pledge card from the office or from one of the priests after Mass.

While we are still encouraging parish families to make pledges, we also continue to move forward with the planning for the future construction.

“We’ve been doing a series of programming meetings, where we sit with people who will utilize all these different spaces, and they help design the program,” Fr. Doug says. “And that program is the narrative that determines what we actually build. People come together and tell their stories about their ministries and what they do, and we use that information to design what we need. We can only build what

people pay for, and we will build anything for which people are willing to pay.”

The more parishioners and parish families who participate and make pledges to these efforts, the more we will be able to do as a parish — perhaps even more than we can imagine.

“The positive changes that it brings to the parish is that it really gives us the ability to reach out to many others and draw them to Christ, because we will have the facilities that enable us to do that,” Fr. Doug says.

For more information about the “More Than We Can Imagine” Capital Appeal, please call the parish office at 850-434-2551.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. | **Daily Mass:** Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 9:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.,
most Sundays during 9:00, 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Mass, 1st Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., and by appointment
Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 9:00 a.m. until Friday 7:30 a.m.