



05.2015

# Saint Paul

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## *Celebrations Mark End of Another School Year*



*The eighth-grade boys basketball team after winning the CYSL Basketball Championship*

One of the best parts of completing an important project is being able to look back on a job well-done! And after a year packed full of challenging assignments and projects, our St. Paul Catholic School students will certainly enjoy the opportunity to celebrate the conclusion of another successful school year!

This past school year certainly saw a number of special events and highlights, such as the eighth-grade boys basketball team's victory in the CYSL Basketball Championship, and the many events of Catholic Schools Week. But the year was particularly significant, as Mrs. Lara Schuler began serving as our school's Principal.

"I want to extend my appreciation for the wonderful welcome I received this year," Mrs. Schuler says. "The parents, students,

faculty and staff have been marvelous to work with and I cannot wait until next year to start another year! This is truly a great place to be."

Mrs. Schuler's first year as principal has certainly been a busy one. On top of all the classes, tests, and homework, there have been a number of events and activities throughout the year. In November, the Knights of Columbus helped the middle school students implement the School Knights of St. Paul, a new program in which sixth, seventh and eighth-graders held a Knighting Ceremony and were divided into four houses, working together in the areas of academic excellence, self-discipline and service.

During the school year, construction of a new media center and auditorium in the old church building has been underway. This

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## *Celebrations* continued from front cover



*Golfers playing during last year's Spartan Scramble Golf and Tennis Tournament*



*Last year's Spartan Scramble, which included a tennis tournament for the first time in addition to the golf tournament*

will enable St. Paul Catholic School to expand the middle school and add two new classes.

"We are breaking ground over the summer to begin the next phase of construction, which will add four additional classrooms on to the end of the middle school wing of the building," Mrs. Schuler says. "Next year will be interesting, having school in a construction zone, but the end vision is terrific."

This year, our St. Paul Catholic School community shared in a great loss with the passing of Dan Hanley, who taught Math and Religion in the middle school since 2006.

"He is missed greatly," Mrs. Schuler says. "He taught from a spirit of joy and love for the kids and truly worked to bring them closer to God."

With the end of the school year approaching, this month is full of celebrations and activities. On May 7, the eighth-graders are taking a trip to New Orleans, where they will visit Ursuline Academy and Convent, St. Louis Cathedral and Jackson Square, take an alligator tour, eat beignets and more.

"This trip has been a tradition among our eighth-grade

students, parents and chaperones, and they look forward to it for a long time," Mrs. Schuler says.

On May 11, the school will host the 20th Anniversary Spartan Scramble Golf and Tennis Tournament at the Pensacola Country Club.

"We look forward to a great turnout," Mrs. Schuler says. "This is a good fundraiser for the school, and this year we are including two nice raffle opportunities."

For the first raffle, the prize is a 2011 Signature Edition Club Car golf cart, and the prize for the second raffle is free tuition for one child during the 2015-16 school year.

The preschool's End-of-Year Celebration will be held on May 21 in the morning, and the eighth-grade graduation will take place that evening. The kindergarten's End-of-Year Celebration will be held on May 27, and the last day of the school year follows on May 28 with an early dismissal.

Please join us in congratulating all the students, teachers, staff members and parents on another great year at St. Paul Catholic School!

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*— Principal Lara Schuler*

## *A Letter From Our Pastor*

# *The Love for God and One Another*

Dear Parishioners,

If we listen closely to the Mass readings throughout this month of May, we will recognize a common theme – love. Of course, every month and every day – and every minute, for that matter – is a time to show our love for one another. St. John begins many of the passages of his letters with the word “Beloved.”

We will hear in one of the readings, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God.” If we would simply follow that one commandment to “Love one another,” we will carry out the stewardship of all of our gifts. Living as a steward is indeed living a life of love – for God, for the Church, for everyone in need, for our families, and for everyone with whom we come in contact.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has spoken about this often during his papacy. At his very first Mass as pope, he said in his homily, “Everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God’s gifts.” There are two important parts to this statement: first, we need to recognize that all is a gift from God, everything we have and everything we are; second, we have a responsibility to use those gifts wisely in service to others.

Pope Francis has also emphasized this stewardship of service throughout his papacy. Speaking to young people in Brazil, he said, “Let us protect with love all that God has given us.” Not only does he point out how we are gifted, but he recognizes that our motivation for using and sharing those gifts should be love. Recently, at an audience with young people, he was even more specific: “Have you thought



of how you can put your talents at the service of others?” he asked. “Do not bury your talents! Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful.”

We all have been called to love – called by our Lord and Savior, by our saints, by our Pope, and by our spiritual leaders. Nevertheless, we also understand that loving in this way and being good stewards is never easy. Let us vow to work together to love and to carry out our lives in ways so many have challenged us to do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Doug Halsema

Fr. Doug Halsema  
Pastor

*Living as a steward is indeed living a life of love – for God, for the Church, for everyone in need, for our families, and for everyone with whom we come in contact.*

# YOUNG CATHOLICS

## Through

# *Fraternus*



*Members of Fraternus, a mentoring group for young Catholic men, with Fr. Matt Worthen (center) during a camping trip in August 2014*



*Boys from Fraternus enjoying a paintball trip*

When you hear the word “mentoring,” do you picture teenage girls learning auto maintenance or teenage boys spending time zip-lining? No? Well, then maybe it’s time you got to know Fraternus and Fidelis!

Latin words meaning “brotherhood” and “sisterhood,” respectively, Fraternus and Fidelis are mentoring programs for Catholic boys and girls in sixth through 12th grades. As national programs, both groups seek to challenge the question of what a man or woman is meant to be in this world and answer with qualities found in Scripture and Catholic tradition.

“Both organizations are mentorship-based discipleship programs,” explains Betsie Kummer, the self-described “Fidelis lady” in charge of the chapter here at St. Paul’s. “We try and draw youth to Christ by building a relationship with adults and with each other.”

“On a national level, Fraternus began in 2007 with its first chapter right here at St. Paul’s, and has grown to nine chapters in four states with many more planned for the next few years,” says Fraternus Commander Steve Hutchings.

With an energy to match that of the students they mentor, weekly meetings and group outings can consist of any-

thing from a campout to a weekly message that incorporates contemporary movie clips to get a point across.

“Fraternus’ stated goal is to mentor boys into virtuous Catholic men,” Steve says. “We’re not seeking to replace fathers or mentors already in boys’ lives, but we hope to supplement them by providing an environment that challenges young boys to focus on the truth and beauty of real, virtuous manhood found in Catholic teaching, instead of the false role models of manhood put forth in our culture all too often. We do this through building relationships first between the adult men who serve as our Captains within our chapter, seeking holiness ourselves since we cannot pass on what we do not have.

“Week after week, our discussions are centered on Scripture, Church history, our personal experiences as men and boys, and everyone leaves with more than they arrived,” he continues.

*“Both organizations [Fraternus and Fidelis] are mentorship-based. We try and draw youth into a relationship with adults.”*

*— Betsie Kummer*

# S GAINING SUPPORT ough and *Fidelis*



*Young women from the Fidelis mentoring group during a recent trip to the Alpha Center, where they spent a day wrapping Christmas presents for the moms and babies who utilize the Alpha Center, a crisis pregnancy resource center*



*Girls from the Fidelis mentoring group laughing together while trying out skincare products*

Betsie echoes this idea by explaining that each month, Fidelis girls study a different virtue and explore the many forms each virtue can take.

“January, for example, was about justice, so we spoke about gossip and how that’s unjust to others,” she says. “We have small group discussion and then do different life skills or

spiritual skills such as Christmas cards for shut-ins.”

Both leaders agree that these messages provide a sense of lasting spirituality that grow with the students as they age.

“We have a really diverse group of girls, from super tomboy to super girly,” Betsie says.

“What’s really neat is seeing them building friendships in spite of their differences. Everyone is fully feminine in her own way and we’re trying to help them grow into their personalities and differences.”

“Fraternus is helping to make our adult volunteers better husbands and fathers by challenging us on a weekly

basis right alongside the boys,” Steve adds. “For the boys, I firmly believe that we are planting seeds to make them better husbands, fathers, priests, and religious than they ever could be without developing virtues with intentionality and perseverance.”

Parents and students in sixth grade and up who want to get involved should contact Betsie at [fidelis@stpaulcatholic.net](mailto:fidelis@stpaulcatholic.net) or Steve at [fraternus@stpaulcatholic.net](mailto:fraternus@stpaulcatholic.net). But above all, Steve says parishioners should pray for the young men and women who are involved.

“Pray, but especially pray for young men suffering from the modern epidemic of fatherlessness and false manhood in our culture,” he says. “We’re always looking for men interested in helping out in all levels as mentors and leaders. I can assure you from my personal experience that Fraternus has deepened my personal relationship with Jesus Christ, that it has made me a better Catholic man, and that it never stops being rewarding to grow in holiness and watch these young men grow before your eyes,” he says.

Find out more about both organizations at [catholicmentoring.com](http://catholicmentoring.com).

*Fraternus and Fidelis]*  
*discipleship programs.*  
*to Christ by building a*  
*s and with each other.”*

*Kummer*

# The Feast of St. Philip Neri

## MAY 26

When we think about saints, we imagine poverty and purity, devotion and dogmas, service and simplicity. But rarely do we think about a saint's sense of humor.

To be sure, St. Philip Neri, born in 16th century Italy, had all the pious qualities of the "ordinary" saint, but God also gave him the peculiar turn of wit that all good comics possess. Even the 1913 *Catholic Encyclopedia*, despite its formal prose, admits that St. Philip gave a "quaintly humorous turn to the maxims of ascetical theology." Which is to say, he preferred the humbling experience of laughing at himself more than the humiliating experience of sitting in ashes.

As a young man of 18, Philip learned to love frequent prayer. He would often escape to a certain secluded spot high in the mountains to pray. He was also a brilliant, self-taught student, though he cared very little for "intellectualism." In his 20s, he felt that philosophy and theology were impeding his prayer life, so he put aside his books and turned to the prayerful darkness of the Italian catacombs.

Late one night in the catacomb of St. Sebastiano, Philip envisioned a globe of fire before him, which entered his mouth and sunk into his chest. Nearly overcome with this interior heat, Philip left the catacomb with uncontrollable joy, and in the next few weeks he formed a confraternity with other laymen to minister to pilgrims who came to Rome without food or shelter. When he was 36, he was ordained a priest.

St. Philip is remembered best for the practical applications of spirituality. As a confessor much in demand with

young men, he began to realize that the men needed much more than absolution. He formed an Oratory ("place of prayer"), which both laymen and clerics joined. It was a close, non-liturgical confraternity, in which the men met for spiritual discussion and prayer.

When Philip addressed an issue among the men, he was known for his unconventional approach. When one man came to the Oratory to mock them, Philip asked the brothers to simply ignore him and wait until he became a Dominican, which in time, he did. Another time, Philip abandoned patience and bodily tackled an unrepentant criminal, who, shocked, made a full confession. When one brother from the Oratory asked if he could wear a hair shirt, Philip granted permission, but only if he wore the shirt outside his clothes — a true lesson in humility. A priest under Philip's direction — who later became a cardinal — was too serious, so the saint made him sing the *Misere* at a wedding breakfast. Even Philip himself, as his reputation for holiness spread, seemed instead to want a reputation for silliness — he shaved just half his beard, wore silly clothing, and made priests read to him from joke books.

Had Philip possessed only these comic qualities, making him a saint would have been a little like canonizing Bob Hope. But his seriousness in prayer, his inspired spiritual direction, and his role in the Counter-Reformation were evidence of his openness to the Holy Spirit. His death was in 1595, and he was canonized in 1622. He is the patron saint of Rome.

MAY 26

Saint  
Philip Neri





# DISCIPLUS:

## FORMING SAINTLY HABITS IN OUR 1ST THROUGH 5TH GRADE BOYS

Writing out what he is thankful for and asking when he can say his daily prayers – these are some of the behaviors and habits a young boy can develop through Discipulus! Going beyond simply encouraging our boys to become saints, Discipulus it gives them day-by-day steps to actively strive for sainthood.

“When you read Scripture to boys, 90 percent of the time you think they aren’t paying attention, but each week these boys show they are being inspired!” says Ed Toth, an organizer of Discipulus. “Sometimes, you need to motivate boys any way you can. I’ve heard from parents that the boys are excited about this group and are reminding them about doing their challenges.”

Discipulus is a brand new program that brings together boys in the first through fifth grades to discuss Scripture, receive daily and weekly faith challenges, and build fellowship. The program fills a need for faith formation opportunities for boys before they are old enough to join Fraternus.

“A couple of gentlemen from the parish were discussing and searching for models of faith formation for boys, and there didn’t seem to be a whole lot out there for the younger grades,” Ed says. “We decided to come up with something on our own.”

Twice a month during the school year, on Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m., boys gather in the gym for physical activity before discussing Scripture and applying the Bible’s teachings to their daily lives. Ed works alongside co-organizers Chris Orłowski and Jamie Rauscher, and they coordinate the meetings together.

“We start by letting them play and get some energy out before breaking into a junior group for first through third-graders and a senior group for fourth and fifth-graders,” Ed says. “We discuss Bible stories and how they apply to their lives and have an activity that relates to the story.”

One unique aspect of Discipulus is that each boy is required to attend the group with a parent or an adult mentor.

The challenges are designed to be completed at home with the whole family or the adult mentor.

“We are the domestic church,” Ed says. “We want to have a group that helps to foster that and that spiritual mentorship with the boy and the father, mother or some adult mentor.”

For each challenge the boys complete with their family or mentor, they earn rosary beads to add to the rosaries they are building.

“The intention is to build habits,” Ed says. “Daily challenges are something simple like saying an Our Father and Hail Mary each night or reading a chapter from the Bible.”

Weekly challenges change depending upon the liturgical season and the intentions of the Holy Father. During the Lenten season, the boys completed service projects such as putting backpacks together for a school in Costa Rica.

“The challenge for one week might be to make a gratitude jar and a petition jar,” Ed says. “The family can

*continued on back cover*

Address Service Requested

## *Disciplus* continued from page 7

write petitions and put them in the jar to offer up in their prayers. Every day, the boys can write something they are thankful for and put it in the gratitude jar.”

Approximately 20 boys from St. Paul and other parishes take part in the Disciplus. The only expense for joining the group has been for outings, like sporting events or canoe trips. As the summer season approaches, the organizers may plan a summer outing as well.

Since the Catechism reminds us of our responsibility to train our children in the faith of the Catholic Church, why not join with other families and have fun while doing so?

“Get together with other families, be the domestic church and build fellowship with the other parents and other boys at the same time,” Ed says. “Come and be a part of the group who wants to fulfill our responsibility!”

For more information about Disciplus, please contact Ed Toth at [etoth@paradigmtelecom.com](mailto:etoth@paradigmtelecom.com) or 850-380-2358.

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*— Ed Toth*

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### *Liturgy Schedule*

**Saturday Vigil:** 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 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 and 11:00 a.m. Mass, 1st Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., and by appointment

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Thursday 9:00 a.m. until Friday 7:30 a.m.