

# MERCY NEWS

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As a young seminarian in 1940's Poland, Karol Wojtyla was introduced to the message of Christ given to a young nun named Sr. Faustina Kowalska, who had been called home just four years earlier. Deeply moved, he visited the motherhouse of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy often, where Sr. Faustina had died and was buried.

Years later this young man would become Cardinal of Krakow, and in 1965 consulted with Cardinal Ottaviani about the hope of the Polish faithful for Sr. Faustina to be raised to the honor of the altar. Thus the process began, with many ups and downs, leading to the canonization of St. Maria Faustina, the very first saint of the new millennium, by the same man who began the process so many years before, this man who would be our beloved Pope for twenty-six years.

encyclical *Dives in misericordia* (Rich in Mercy) where he speaks of mercy as "the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and Redeemer"(13). He appeals to our Church to beg for God's mercy as the only answer to our present human condition. He describes mercy as greater than evil, greater than sin, greater than death, and summons us all to pray for God's mercy on the whole world.

In a 1997 visit to the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Lągowo, Poland, Pope John Paul II addressed the congregation of Sisters from which St. Faustina came with words from the Diary: "The people of today need your proclamation of mercy: they need your works of mercy and they need your prayer to obtain mercy" (742). Those words should ring in our ears, as well.

How appropriate and what a powerful sign that our beloved Pope should be called to the Father's infinite mercy on the vigil of the Feast of Divine Mercy, the feast he worked so very diligently to bring to the whole Church. Each of us devoted to the message of Divine Mercy should find encouragement and strength in this affirmation of God's desire for our Church to embrace His greatest attribute: His Mercy.

What would Pope John Paul expect from us, we who labor at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy? The words he spoke to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1997 ring true for us:

"An extraordinary vocation is yours...He has called you to a particular apostolate, that of His mercy. I ask you: accept that responsibility!"

## ***Pope John Paul II***

*1920-2005*

*"Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done."*

*Inside:*

Further proof of Pope John Paul II's devotion to Divine Mercy lies in the fact that two years into his pontificate he published the

## A Word From Norm and Amy...

Dear Friends,

God's many blessings upon you as we begin a new year at the mission!

We would like to thank all of you for your generous support. We were able to raise the 25 thousand needed to pay the past due water bill. What a blessing each one of you are and what a great response we received from you! We praise God for you.

The coming years will be very exciting for St. Luke's as we will be looking at new growth. We have plans for new buildings which will help us to expand our ministries. None of this will be possible without your support.

The Lord continues to bless us with new missionaries and associates. Thank you to all who have made their commitments for the first time and to those who have renewed them. Remember whether this is your first time or your fifth, always keep your eyes focused on Jesus. The glory is all of His!

In this coming year we need to especially put any pettiness behind us. Times are changing and we need to band together and bring more people to Christ. If you feel like the mission does not need you, or if you have a misunderstanding with another missionary or associate, and you feel like just staying away, run towards the mission! Forgive your brother or sister and get involved even more so. The Lord has called each one of us with our very own talents and gifts to serve and no gift is too small or insignificant. Remember that it is not Amy and Norm who chose you for this, but God Himself who called you to the mission. Keep your eyes focused on His Son and you can never go wrong!

In His Mercy, Amy and Norm

## Adopt-a-Week!

The Mission spends about \$1500 a week to feed the needy of our community. Won't you consider helping? If your company, church, or organization would like to see your charitable dollars go directly to those in need, consider adopting a week of food and nutrition for our neediest brothers and sisters. It's easy to do! Just call the Mission today and say, "I want to Adopt a Week!"

## Spiritual Direction - Some Initial

## Thoughts by Fr. Jack Mattimore, S.J.

Many books have been written about spiritual direction - what it is, what it requires, what one should look for in a spiritual director, what one can expect from spiritual direction. Here are a few thoughts addressing some of these topics, all of which are deserving of further consideration.

Spiritual direction entails one person offering guidance to another about how to live life more under the dominion of the Holy Spirit, who is the primary director. Spiritual direction aims at helping the person to fulfill more fully God's purpose in creating us, which is, as the Baltimore Catechism stated, "to know, love and serve God in this life, so as to be happy with Him forever in the next."

Areas to consider in direction then include growing in prayer, grace and virtue, as well as working against sin and weakness in one's life. Spiritual direction can help us to learn how to discern the presence of God and the promptings of the Holy spirit in one's daily life. Direction is a conversation with another person that leads to greater clarity and insight about the demands of following Jesus and being a faithful member of His Church. Spiritual direction always ought to be rooted in the Gospel, as well as the tradition and teachings of the Church, the experience of the saints and other holy men and women, including the director him or herself.

Another way to put it is to say that spiritual direction is speaking with another about one's life, particularly the spiritual aspects, in order to learn how to grow in holiness. The director helps the directee to see more clearly how and where God is working in his or her life and what can be done in order to move further along the right path.

There are several reasons one might want to begin spiritual direction, and as one continues in spiritual direction, inevitably, other reasons come to the fore as well. One of the main reasons already stated is to grow in virtue, as well as to work at overcoming sin and weakness. None of us is perfect, but we are all called to be faithful and direction helps us to do that. When we are faithful to prayer it is not long before God begins to work within us in different ways and direction can help us to recognize what is happening and how we can cooperate with God's action and grow in our prayer life. Another obvious reason for spiritual direction, particularly for young people who are seeking to discover what

God may be asking of them, is to discern a vocation or some other important decision in life.

Another good reason to meet with a spiritual director regularly is that it keeps us honest and helps us to be accountable to someone else. When we are willing to speak freely and openly with someone else about these important parts of our life, then we leave little room for self-deception or laziness, both of which are common temptations. Living a life for God is difficult at times and we are often engaged in a spiritual battle and having a spiritual director that we trust is a strong source of support and encouragement.

We all need a good doctor at times if we want to stay healthy. A good spiritual director can help keep us spiritually healthy.



## Meet our Missionaries:

### *Charlene Mallory*

*How old are you?* 38

*Where were you born?*

Sisters Hospital, Buffalo N.Y.

*How many brothers and sisters do you have?*

2 brothers, 8 sisters

Missionary sister: Debbie Mallory

Associate Mom: Elouise Mallory

*Tell us about your children:*

Erica is 17, Eric is 15, and Rassean is 10.

*When did you come to the Mission?* 1994

*What are your major duties at the Mission?*

I run the school building, food giveaway and pantry, and I organize community service groups

*Who are your favorite saints?*

St. Faustina and St. Anthony.

*What are your favorite Devotions?*

Rosary

Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Something we don't know about you...*

I LOVE Michelle Marciniak's Panny-cakes!



**A Reflection  
from the Diary of  
St. Maria Faustina**  
by Rick Paolini

When we are tired or ill we can be short or irritable with those closest to us. Half the battle can be awareness of our mood and the consolation that even a saint had the same struggle.

Paragraph 763 of the Diary states: "I must be on my guard, especially today, because I am becoming over-sensitive to everything. Things I would not pay attention to when I am healthy bother me today. O my Jesus, my shield and my strength, grant my Your grace that I may emerge victorious from these combats."



**Ford Friendship  
Express!**

Huge thanks to the Ford Dealers of Western New York for their generous donation of a 2005 Ford E-150 Cargo Van to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy! Each year the Ford Dealers of WNY award a vehicle to a deserving charity to assist them in their efforts, and this year St. Luke's was chosen! The van is greatly needed and warmly received. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Ford Dealers and their families!



**GLORY AND PRAISE!**  
by Eddie Simon

"Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord: that He looked down from His Holy height, from heaven the Lord looked at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die" (Psalm 102).

Scripture can be applied beneficially in more than one way. As I read this psalm I was reflecting on it in a certain way. Everyday we can find ourselves groaning as prisoners of one thing or another and many times we die a thousand deaths interiorly.

There are many things at work in this world that would make us slaves. There are many things at work that would cause us to sin, and with sin comes death. We have a natural tendency to look for freedom from slavery to come exteriorly. We look around and see many troubles and problems and have a natural desire to see them eliminated so that we can be freed of them. We believe that if all these problems around us were eliminated then we could live in peace and love. This is certainly understandable, but, the peace of the Lord surpasses all understanding. He has shown me that I can have true peace in spite of the troubles around me.

This morning I woke up early. It was 7:30AM and yet I felt rested (even after going to bed quite late), so I got up and put on the coffee. I'm usually the one who stays up until 3 or 4 in the morning, so this was a little out of the ordinary for me. It was quiet, I heard the sparrows outside my window chirping their morning song. I had not forgotten that right outside my door are some thirty to forty homeless men. They are all cramped into an overcrowded space.

Some of them are mentally ill and don't keep themselves clean. It smells, it's very often dirty. There was arguing and cursing last night and there will probably be more today. There are thieves out there, liars out there, and violent people out there. Some of them are drunk, some are high on something and some of them are plotting one form of evil or another. I am aware of all this and more and yet I am experiencing a loving peace. I know where it comes from. It comes from my loving Father who art in Heaven.

It is His gift to me this morning and it is very freeing and it enables me to live. I am grateful for it. My prayer is that He would continue to teach me His ways that I might continue to live and be free. It is my prayer for all of you this day, as well. Help us, Lord, to know and understand that it is not what's "out there" that defiles our lives with slavery and death but what is inside us. I praise you, Lord, for you look down from your Holy height and hear the groans of my lowliness and bless me with your love. Praise the Lord!

**Phone Directory**

**St. Luke's Mission of Mercy**

Office: Sue Gilhooley, Barb Carpenter 894-4476

**FOSL's (Friends of St. Luke's)**

Barb Kenny 625-8290  
Pat Titus 825-4147

**FOSL's Niagara**

Sandy Gawrys 772-2720

**Associates**

Barb Carpenter 894-4476

**Jr. Associates**

Dave Topor 893-9080

**Priest Associates**

Fr. Bill Quinlivan 688-5678

**Corn Roast / Craft Show Info.**

Rosie Spoth 688-1395



## St. John Bosco House

By "Brother" Thomas Eades

"Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord!" I am Brother Tom, a missionary at St. Luke's. Two and a half years ago I was given the blessing to open the St. John Bosco House for adolescent and young adult males, ages 13 to 22. We show them love through Jesus' mercy. We help them to get an education, catechize them, and give them stability. We prepare them for the future! St. John Bosco House has been called a "sanctuary", a "safe house" by former residents (70), many of which still phone and visit. We have about a seventy-five percent success rate and are used by the court system, social services, and other residential facilities. It was God's providence that the house was named after St. John Bosco. In the mid 1900's during the industrial revolution of Europe, in the city of Turin, Italy, young men and orphans lived in the streets and were used as "slave laborers". St. John Bosco's calling was to give these young men and orphans love, a home, and "normalcy", while providing orthodox catechesis in the teachings of the Catholic Church. Out of this meager start grew the Salesian order.

The St. John Bosco House first started as the St. Joseph House; ages ranged from 13 to 30 years old. Then, as God sent more young men it became obvious that the house age should range from 13 to 22, and a name change was needed. Since the first year we have typically housed 4 to 12 residents per month, consisting of the homeless, state penitentiary parolees or holding center releases, the forgotten, and walk-in's from the streets. At least 13 residents have come back to the faith or have been baptized into it, as Jermaine did this past Easter Vigil. Jermaine also became the first Junior Associate Lay Servant of Divine Mercy from the house.

I have a lot of help in Tony Mancuso, as well as volunteer house-mothers Liz, Melanie, Jennifer, and others, to whom I am deeply indebted to.

# Wish List

The Mission is always in need! Many people ask, "How can I help?" Here is a very important way you can make a difference in our ministry. The following list of items are needed to help us in the day-to-day activities, programs and ministries of the Mission. Some items are small and inexpensive, and others are, well, not--hey, it's a wish list! Check it out, and if you have the gumption to give, we have the need. Please call the Mission at 894-4476 if you have any of the items listed below to donate. Thanks!

- Double-decker gas convection oven, commercial grade (we can't use 3-face power)
- Charcoal and lighter fluid
- Over-the-counter medications and first aid items, especially the following:
  - Antiseptic and antibiotic ointments
  - Insect sprays
  - Band-aids
  - Sun blocker, 30 or greater SPF
  - Cold packs
  - Ibuprofen
  - Acetaminophen
  - Benadryl
  - Imodium
- Snacks for kids, any kind
- Juice boxes
- individually wrapped cookies, snacks
- Microsoft Word
- Lexmark Printer ink, black #32, color #33
- Inkjet printer paper, copy paper
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Kleenex
- Cleaning supplies, detergents, spray cleaners, toilet bowl cleaner, etc.
- Laundry detergent
- Batteries
- Deodorant, Toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo
- Diapers size 4 and 5
- Baby formula (esp. Enfamil with iron)
- Baby wipes
- Stamps
- Women's sanitary products
- Bus tokens
- Video games
- Bicycles
- Computers, video systems
- sports equipment



## Sprucing Up for Spring?

If you have new or gently used items that you aren't quite sure what to do with, don't despair! We'll take them for our TAG SALE on June 4<sup>th</sup>! Call Owen and Diane at 635-9745 for more information...

# TAG SALE

June 4<sup>th</sup>

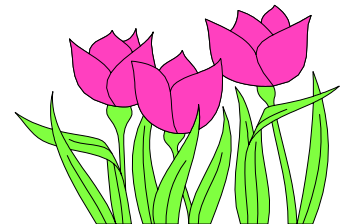
9AM-3PM

Our Lady of Peace  
10950 Main St., Clarence  
(Across from Antique World)

All Proceeds to help St.  
Luke's Mission of Mercy

Come shop at  
"Amy's Country  
Store"! Bargains  
are plentiful - Shop 'till  
you drop!

Bake Sale - Hot Dogs -  
Raffle - Voices of Mercy  
at 4:30PM Mass



# Calendar of Events

## May-June-July 2005

### May 2005

- 5<sup>th</sup>: FOSL Meeting, 7PM
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Associate Meeting 6PM
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Charismatic Dept. Pentecost Mass/  
St. Francis of Assisi
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Healing Mass / St. Luke's 7PM
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Healing Mass / Blessed Trinity in  
Dunkirk 7PM
- 30<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Mass / Holy Sepulchre,  
10AM

### June 2005

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Tag Sale / Our Lady Queen of  
Peace, Clarence 9AM-3PM
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Healing Mass / Annunciation, Elma  
7PM
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Healing Mass / St. Mary's, Belmont  
7PM
- 28<sup>th</sup>: Healing Mass / St. Luke's 7PM
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Healing Mass / Sacred Heart,  
Lakewood 7PM

### July 2005

- 5<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>: Kids of the Kingdom!
- 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>: FOSL Retreat with Fr. Dan Young
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Festival of Praise! / St. Amelia's  
5:30PM
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Mission Anniversary Neighborhood  
Picnic / St. Luke's
- Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>: Anniversary Mass and Picnic /  
Joseph's Grove 6PM (Cost to be  
determined)

## Kids of the Kingdom! Help Wanted

Once again this summer dozens of fun-seeking kids will descend on the Mission for a GREAT time! This year Kids of the Kingdom will be held on the following dates in July:

5th, 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th,  
19th, 20th, 21st, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th

As always, volunteers are needed! If you would like to help a youngster have a super-duper summer, call today and pledge your time! You can work a day, a week, or the whole time if you'd like. Call Sandy Gawrys at 772-2720 today. Thanks!

The Great Corn

## Roast!

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
Donald Spoth Farm



Keep your calendar clear for this year's barn-busting, knee-slapping, chin-wiping good time! Those who have been to a Corn Roast at Donald Spoth Farm, hosted by Rosie Spoth and her sons, know that this is the event NOT to miss, and those who have never been, well, shame on you! There's live music, hay rides, the year's biggest Chinese Auction, raffles, hot dogs and salads, and, of course, all the corn you can eat! Keep your eyes peeled for more information in a future mailing, and see you down at the farm!

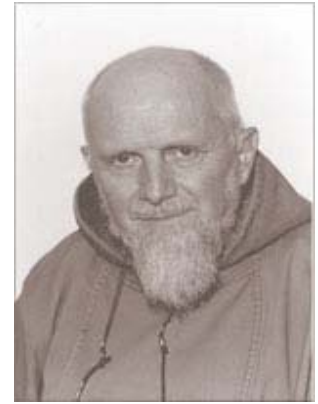


## Rich-n-Mercy

October 1<sup>st</sup> will mark our second-annual Rich-n-Mercy Run/Walk to benefit St. Luke's Mission of Mercy! Last year 60 people participated in our first race, coordinated by our own running guru Steve Bohan! Keep your eye out for future notices, and get your running shoes laced up!

## Dates to Remember...

- June 4<sup>th</sup>: Tag Sale
- July 10<sup>th</sup>: Festival of Praise!
- July 31<sup>st</sup>: Neighborhood Picnic
- Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>: Anniversary Mass and Picnic
- Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>: Corn Roast
- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>: Rich-n-Mercy Run
- Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>: Mercy Conference



## MERCY CONFERENCE with Fr. Benedict Groeschel

At long last, he is coming! Fr. Groeschel suffered a terrible accident, but by the grace of God he has been healed and is able to resume speaking and traveling, and we are blessed to present him to you! Known for his distinctive, street-smart style of speaking, Fr. Groeschel speaks to each of us directly, face to face, and hearts are always moved. A joint-effort of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, The Eucharistic Adoration Society, and the Diocesan Charismatic Office, this conference is sure to impact all who attend. To be held at Samuels Grande Manor on November 5<sup>th</sup>, \$25 per person (includes lunch). Stay tuned for future mailings for more information, or call 894-4476.

## THANK YOU!

Looking for ways your company and employees can help St. Luke's Mission of Mercy? Here's two examples:

*National Fuel has offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, any donations made by it's employees to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy! Thanks to the administration and employees of this community-minded company.*

*The Ford Dealers of WNY have donated a van to help with the day-to-day operations of the Mission. This welcome donation is much-needed and much-appreciated!*

Be creative! And thanks to our community of caring donor companies throughout WNY!

Welcome to Another Year of Mercy!  
**Lay Servants of Divine Mercy**  
**2005-2006**

**Norbert Bentkowski**  
**Thomas Eades**  
**Dennis Gilhooley**  
**Susan Gilhooley**  
**Charlene Mallory**  
**Debbie Mallory**  
**David Marciniak**  
**Michelle Marciniak**  
**Jeannie Marinaro**  
**Teresa Mayer**  
**Elaine Schmidt**  
**Eddie Simon**  
**Michelle Spikes**  
**David Topor**  
**Patty Zindle**



**Associate Lay Servants of Divine Mercy**  
**2005-2006**

Marilyn Adams, Donna Almeter, Scott Almeter, Marie Annarino, Andrew Bernstein, Sandra Bernstein, Catherine Bohan, Gretchen Burbee, Pat Burdick, Kyle Burris, Regina Burris, Jan Capuana, Barbara Carpenter, Donnie Cheney, Loretta Christoforetti, Philip Cone, Patty Schwarzkopf Cornavaca, Diane Craig, Mary Louise Creola, Bill Cummings, Claire Cummings, Deborah Dauth, Jerome Dzierzanowski, Marian Eibl, Bradley Erckert, Mary Erckert, Kathleen Evans, Jerry Evans, Geraldine Felt, Donna Franco, Eric Franco, Karen Garigen, Sandy Gawrys, Anthony Gensicki, Jennifer Gibbons, Antoinette Gramm, Gino Grasso, Julie Hahn, Marlene Happ, JoAnn Heimiller, Lucille Heimiller, Mary Herec, Michael Herec, Ken Hoelscher, Heidi Hoerner, Christine Holden, John Holden, Jim Irwin, Laurette Irwin, David Jackson, Mary Ann Jackson, Nancy Janiszewski, Martin Joralemon, Rosemarie Joralemon, Barb Kenny, Diane Kerr, Owen Kerr, Dolores Kurzdorfer, Sharon Linch, Louise Lougen, Anne Lozzi, Joe Luh, Elouise Mallory, Anthony Mancuso, Karen Manspeaker, Carol Marcklinger, Leonard Marks, Anthony Marrone, Heather Marshall, Penny Matches, Catherine McElwee, James McGraw, Marie Rose Milley, Eryne Moyer, Nathan Neuman, Peggy Palillo, Linda Paolini, Rick Paolini, Robin Paolini, Shirley Perfetti, Mary Pfeiffer, Judy Piwowar, Beverly Polowy, Gregg Prince, Kathy Proulx, Susan Rogacki, Gail Ruckdeschel, J.Brian Ruh, John Sauberan, Melanie Shoemaker, Rose Marie Spoth, Sandi Steck, Angela Stewart, Odell Stewart, Joan Szydowski, Mady Tiadjeri, Samuel Tillman, Traci Tillman, Pat Titus, JoAnn Tomasello, Norma Trabert, Judith Tripi, Kathleen Waterhouse, Raymond Zgoda, Sharon Zgoda.



**Junior Associate Lay Servants of Divine Mercy**  
**2005-2006**

Susie Bignell, Crystal Brown, Erica Cornivaca, Jeremiah Franco, Brittney Gibbons, Christopher Jackson, Jermaine Kirkwood, Nicole Lozzi, Robert MacKenzie, Elizabeth Marciniak, Emily Marciniak

# Welcome to Another Year of Mercy!

**Front**



**Back**



## The Crucifix Medal of St. Benedict

The Lay Servants of Divine Mercy, Associates, Junior Associates, and Priest Associates all receive the Crucifix Medal of St. Benedict as they make their varied levels of commitment to St. Luke's and to the Divine Mercy of our Lord on Divine Mercy Sunday. This powerful Sacramental of the Church has long been a favored object of devotion throughout the world. The pious intention of wearing this medal, together with the Church's powerful blessing and intercessory power, make it into an unspoken prayer which has been shown to be of great help in maintaining holy purity, bringing about conversions, procuring assistance in the hour of death, and as an effective tool in spiritual warfare.

St. Benedict of Nursia, Italy had a profound veneration for the Holy Cross and for our Savior crucified. In virtue of the Sign of the Cross, he wrought many miracles and exercised great power over the spirits of darkness. In consequence of the great veneration in which St. Benedict was held from the early Middle Ages, it followed that a medal was struck, one side of which represents St. Benedict holding the Cross in one hand and the Holy Rule in the other.

The reverse of the Medal shows the image of the Cross. Around the margin are the initials of Latin words which form verses supposed to have originated with the holy Father Benedict himself.

On the front of the Crucifix Medal of St. Benedict we wear at St. Luke's is the image of the Cross. The real exorcistic force of the Medal is located here. The following initials are found there. Here is a list of them and their meaning:

**C.S.P.B.** *Crux Sancti Patris Benedicti*  
The Cross of Holy Fr. Benedict

**C.S.S.M.L.** *Crux Sancta Sit Mihi Lux*  
May the Holy Cross be my light

**N.D.S.M.D.** *Non Draco Sit Mihi Dux*  
May the dragon be not my leader

**V.R.S.** *Vade Retor Satana!*  
Be gone, Satan! (Away, Satan!)

**N.S.M.V.** *Non Suade Mihi Vana*  
Entice me not with deceits

**S.M.Q.I.** *Sunt mala Quae Libas*  
What you offered is evil

**I.V.B.** *Ipse Venend Bibas*  
Drink your poison yourself

On the reverse of the Crucifix is the Medal of St. Benedict, with the following words of prayer: ***Ejus in obitu nostro praesentia muniamur***, translated: We desire you in our hour of death to be our armour by your property and presence.

# *News From the Front!*

*...the latest from various ministries, activities and events!*

## **Voices of Mercy:**

**Busy, busy, busy!**

by Dennis Gilhooley

It has been a wonderful and blessed Lent, Holy Week, Triduum, Easter and Divine Mercy Novena. The Voices of Mercy (VOM) were kept very busy throughout this period with much outside ministry at Parish Missions, Parish Lenten Retreats, Healing Masses, and the like. One of the ministries we did, borrowing from our Lessons and Carols we used for Christmas, was a Lenten Scripture and Song. We took the Sunday Mass readings for Lent and focused on one theme, using excerpts from the Scriptures. We then followed this with a song of reflection that also focused on the theme. It proved to be a powerful ministry.

Starting with Palm Sunday, the majority of our ministry was "home-based" -- that is, at the Mission. The VOM provided music for all of our Triduum liturgies and throughout the entire Divine Mercy Novena. The one ministry that was away from the Mission during this period was a vicariate-wide penance service in Niagara County on Holy Wednesday. It was an awesome sight to see so many priests (over 20) and that many people (several hundred) preparing themselves for the joy of Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As the VOM head back into Ordinary Time, we plan on learning some new Mass parts, including a new musical setting of the Gloria and Our Father. We also hope to learn a few new "Praise" songs to add to our repertoire.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

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## **FOSL's:**

**Blessed with Success!**

by Sharon Drabek

The FOSL's have come a long way from our first meeting with only a handful of people, who had no idea how to begin! All we knew was that we needed to raise money for the fuel bill. Thus began our fund-raising efforts, from our first St. Joseph's Table to our more recent ventures, such as the Fashion Show.

We began this new year with Soup 'n Chili Knights in January at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hamburg, N.Y. The soup and chili is all home-made, prepared by a cadre of volunteers as we bring a little "St. Luke's" to our Southtowns" brothers and sisters! Delicious desserts were the products of volunteers as well as Rich Products, who, once again, graciously donated their delicious wares. For a very low price our patrons were treated to all-you-can-eat chili and soup, great music by the Voices of Mercy, and a chance to win at the Chinese Auction or 50/50 split. It was a wonderful success!

March ushered in our annual St. Joseph's Table at St. John Maron's in Williamsville. Served traditionally with all meatless dishes, the food was prepared over two days by many volunteers. While the kitchen is buzzing with preparation, many others are setting up tables, preparing the Chinese Auction, and getting things in tip-top shape. Wonderfully attended, this was another success!

A Spaghetti Dinner marked the start of activity in April, once again at St. John Maron Hall, featuring Gino Grasso's famous sauce. The work continued with our Second Annual Fashion Show at the Hearthstone Manor, a huge success with great attendance and wonderful models, including Amy Betros, struttin' their stuff on the cat-walk! June will bring us no rest as we prepare for the Tag Sale at Our Lady of Peace Church in Clarence, N.Y.

These events don't just happen - - they are the result of hard work and cooperation by many, many good people. We are always looking for more help! If you feel called to lend a hand in our efforts to raise money for St. Luke's, feel free to join us! We are always open to new people and new ideas. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at Infant of Prague Church on Cleveland Drive in Cheektowaga, in the "Green Room" at 7PM. The work is hard, the pay is poor, but the eternal benefits are out of this world!

## **Associates:**

**New faces, Familiar Faces**

by Barbara Carpenter

Our first Associate gathering for the new season will be held May 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke's Mission. This evening will also be a celebration of Fr. Dan Young's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. There will be an hour of adoration beginning at 7PM with a light reception to follow.

We extend a warm welcome to our new Associates for 2005-2006: Scott Almeter, Drew Bernstein, Pat Burdick, Kyle Burris, Regina Burris, Loretta Christoforetti, Phil Cone, Bill Cummings, Geraldine Felt, Heidi Hoerner, Nancy Janiszski, Carol Marcklinger, Robin Paolini, John Sauberan, JoAnn Tomasello, Raymond and Sharon Zgoda.

Most importantly is our many thanks to our wonderful priests: Fr. Joseph Bertha, Fr. Dennis Franckowiak, Fr. Bill Quinlivan, Fr. Dan Young,

# *News From the Front!*

*...the latest from various ministries, activities and events!*

and to Rick Paolini, for leading our small groups in our journey to learn more about St. Faustina. This year we will study the Gospel of Matthew.

We will keep you posted on upcoming events as the information becomes available. Anyone who would like information on our Associate's Program, please contact me in the office at 894-4476.

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## **Junior Associates: A New Year Ahead!** by Emily Marciniak

It is our second year since the formation of the Junior Associates, and we are glad to say that we have more than doubled the size of our group from last year! We welcome back some familiar faces, and we also welcome many new faces that all of us, including Dave Topor (our moderator) are very excited to meet. A great year is ahead of us! This past year we studied the life of St. Faustina and participated in many fundraisers. This year we will be studying the Gospel of Matthew and will continue to be presence at the Mission and Mission events. We already began by helping at the St. Joseph's Table, and look forward to our next opportunity to help.

Welcome to our newest Jr. Associates: Susie Bignell, Christopher Jackson, Jermaine Kirkwood, Nicole Lozzi, Robert McKenzie, and Elizabeth Marciniak. We know you'll love it! See you soon!

## **R.C.I.A. / Religious Ed.**

### **A Reason to Rejoice!** by Dave Topor

Our Lord must be rejoicing because of the awesome events that took place in March, 2005. Eight young people approached the Tribunal of Mercy, that is, the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this month. Mary Marciniak, Joanah Perkins, Nikoli Thomas, Jibreel Abdul-Nafi (Quet), Lisa Fourby, Bella Paolini, Samantha Paolini, and David Amoia all received God's forgiveness through this wonderful sacrament. God's abundant Life was likewise shared with seven other young people on Easter Sunday. Baptized into new life with Christ were: Angelo Fourby, Ashanti Hager, Davonte Hall, Tyrese Hall, Kayla Hall, and Carl Harper.

During the Easter Vigil eight adults received their Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist. They are: Sandra Akrofi, Beatrice Hager, Tabettha Hall, Erwin Hill, Jermaine Kirkwood, Mika Mallory, Lauren McKenzie, and Latroia Prim. Two adults previously Baptized in another faith became Roman Catholics, and received their Confirmation and First Holy Communion. They are: William Cummings and Joyce Elliott. In addition, six Catholic adults were Confirmed during the Easter Vigil Mass. They are: Geraldine Felt, Chris Kardach, A.J. Ridderhof, Colin Shoemaker, Sam and Traci Tillman. Please pray for all those who have been touched by God through His Holy Sacraments.

We would like to thank all those who helped in preparing our people for these Sacraments. In a very special way, we would like to extend our gratitude to Fr. Jack Mattimore, SJ, who administered these Sacraments of God's love to each of the above listed people.

One other noteworthy event regards Sam and Traci Tillman. On Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, they received the great grace of the Sacrament of Christian Marriage. Taking place during the Octave of Easter, it was a beautiful celebration of what God has been doing in Sam and Traci's lives. And the reception that followed Mass was truly a joyous occasion. We thank God for the marvelous works that He is doing among His people!

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Submissions for our next newsletter are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. We welcome your submissions that directly relate to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, it's programs, ministries and events. All items are subject to editing. Send your submission to the following address:

St. Luke's Mission of Mercy / Newsletter  
325 Walden Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14211

or email to: [dpmarciniak@adelphia.net](mailto:dpmarciniak@adelphia.net)

Any questions: Dave Marciniak at 444-4404