

## PASTOR'S PACE

Many of you know I was responsible for raising sheep when I was growing up on our family farm. Once we were asked by our neighbors to take in an orphan lamb from their flock because the lamb's mother rejected it and would not allow it to nurse. The lamb's life was in danger on two fronts: being rejected by the ewe and, subsequently, our flock where it was placed. Sheep outside of a flock are not readily accepted by those of another farm.

With orphan lambs the shepherd is expected to feed it formula by a baby bottle four or more times a day so it will have nourishment and grow. Gradually the shepherd also needs to introduce the lamb to the new flock so it become accustomed to its new surroundings and hopefully become a part of the larger flock. In other words, once it has been fed and is strong enough to defend itself and knows where it belongs it becomes part of something bigger than itself.

While the early Church experienced great growth due to the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, its members had to confront who they would allow in and who they would not. Acceptance and rejection seem to be the operative words that characterize the activity of the apostles and early disciples as they set out to live the mission entrusted to them.

In today's first reading we continue to hear how the community of believers was formed and shaped into what became known as the Church. Paul and Barnabas sought to include the Gentiles. Of course, there must have been great apprehension, suspicion, and skepticism from most of the people involved. Both sides needed to know that they would be safe, cared for, spiritually fed, appreciated, and accepted. We can infer that the early Christians and the Gentiles alike had a conviction that being a Christian means embodying the mission and desire of Jesus to be one, especially in light of their differences.

Unity has been the operative word and goal of the Church since its beginning and continues even today. The role of the shepherd is to hold together the flock, despite where people come from, who they are, what they do or have done, who they love and have loved, and how they live. By definition, the shepherd guides the diversity of the flock to a union of hearts and minds and out of such plurality comes a unified manifestation of something glorious and joy-filled. The shepherd is the one who models the grace of love and all its manifestations that alone bring about life and growth.

"Out of many, one" has been the translation of the unofficial motto printed on the currency, official seals and documents of our country since 1795. Since the earliest foundation of most great entities, there is the recognition of diversity and a hope for understanding and unity. As Christians we would do well to remember this as we continue to grow in our identity as disciples of Jesus.

Let us remember each other in prayer this holy week!  
+Eric J. Knapp, S.J.

## MASS INTENTIONS: April 26–May 1

MON.	6:00	+Mary C. Bussman
	11:30	+Francis X. Gastright (1 <sup>st</sup> Annv.)
	12:05	Sp. Int. Elmer and Phyllis Link
TUES.	6:00	+Joseph L. Giese, Jr.
	11:30	O'Connor and Whalen Families
	12:05	+Helen Hesch
WED.	6:00	+Mary Conroy
	11:30	+Edna Staufer
	12:05	+Jack Burns (Birth)
THURS.	6:00	Sp. Int. Dr. Stephen Meyers
	11:30	+Leo Schulenberg
	12:05	Sp. Int. Joseph Niehaus
FRI.	6:00	+Rita M. Jones
	11:30	+Mary McKiernan
	12:05	+Harry and Elsie Franke
SAT.	7:00	+Matt James
	11:00	+Mrs. Betty Donovan

### Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

The May/June Schedules are available in the sacristy or online at [www.stxchurch.org](http://www.stxchurch.org). Thank you.

## FAITH FORMATION

**The Gospels of Luke: VOLUMES I & II, the Story of the Church.** Fr. Tim Schehr will continue his presentation of the two-volume Gospel Tuesday evenings, **April 27 and May 4**, in the Church Undercroft from 7-8:30 PM. Discover what wonderful things can happen when people are filled with the Holy Spirit. Please bring a friend and your Bible.

**Baptism Prep Class** is scheduled for Thursday, **April 29** at 7 PM in the undercroft. Please call the office to register if you have a child who is in need of baptism.

**Marriage Prep Class** is scheduled for Thursday, **May 6** at 7 PM in the undercroft. Please call the office to register if you are planning to be married at St. Xavier Church in 2010.

### JESUIT SPIRITUAL CENTER AT MILFORD

**Contemplative Retreat** – Father Hans Koenen, SJ, from the Netherlands, will again lead this summer's contemplative retreat June 4-10. Father Koenen's retreats are in the tradition of Willigis Jager's mindfulness practice, common to Christian and Eastern meditation. It is a practice that leads one to St. Ignatius' *examen* of consciousness and finding God in all things. Daily celebration of the Eucharist will be offered. The retreat is for experienced practitioners as well as beginners.

**Ignatian Weekend Retreats** – This spring, nine 3-day Ignatian Weekend Retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius will be offered. The retreats are silent, available for both men and women, and directed by Jesuits including Fr. Fran Daly, SJ; Fr. Ted Ross, SJ; Fr. Richard Bollman, SJ and Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ.

## CHURCH NOTES

The **Sunday** collection for April 18 was **\$11,015.02** and weekday was **\$325.60**. **Thank you for your generosity!**

**Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:** Fr. Murphy, Daniel Sherman, Ron Porges, Bob Carey, Jean Fischer, Patty Everett, Marian Hardy, Adam Stropko, Rhua Kepferle, Betsey Wilson, Elizabeth Brown, Marge Willis, Lola Davis, Diane Gottmer, and Alice Schutte.

## X-CETERA

**Congratulations to Mimi Therese** daughter of Peter and Marian (Dibert) Rayner and **Olivia Claire**, daughter of Andrew and Jody (Rutterer) Lange who were baptized last weekend!

**Congratulations to Jeff and Karen (Ryder) Rogers and Estevan and Toncia (LeDesma) Chavez** who were married last weekend!

### Flying Pig Marathon, Sunday, May 2

Be advised that the marathon course includes 7<sup>th</sup> Street and could interfere with navigation downtown and getting to church for 7 and 9 AM Masses.



**\$5 Cincinnati Reds Night** Join your friends from Saint Xavier for our 2010 Cincinnati Reds Night. **Friday June 11 at 7:05** Tickets have been reduced to only \$5 each. There will be fireworks after the game. Please call Diane at the church office to secure your \$5 tickets no later than Monday May 10. We're better when we're together!

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 22**, You are invited to a book signing on Saturday, May 22, 2010, 2 PM – 4 PM at St. Xavier Church Undercroft. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to meet the authors of *What's Your Decision? How to Make Choices with Confidence and Clarity*. Co-authors Frs. Michael Sparough, S.J. & Tim Hipskind, S.J. will meet attendees, sign books and make a brief presentation. Refreshments will be served.

A big, burly man visited the pastor's home and asked to see the minister's wife, a woman well known for her charitable impulses. "Madam," he said in a broken voice, "I wish to draw your attention to the terrible plight of a poor family in this district. The father is dead, the mother is too ill to work, and the nine children are starving. They are about to be turned into the cold, empty streets unless someone pays their rent, which amounts to \$400." "How terrible!" exclaimed the preacher's wife. "May I ask who you are?" The sympathetic visitor applied his handkerchief to his eyes. "I'm the landlord," he sobbed.

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

### REGULAR SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** Shawls and lap blankets are handmade on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 9:15 to 10:45 AM.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL** meets every Saturday at 9 AM at the Cathedral.

**TENDER MERCIES:** St. Xavier Church provides lunch on the last Sunday of every month.

**Wine & Cheese Reception.** The X-Acts, our Young Adult group, would like to invite all parishioners, especially young adults of the parish, to join them **TODAY** after the 5 PM Mass in the undercroft for fellowship and to learn about their ministry.

**BABY SHOWER** Once again during the month of May we will have our "BABY SHOWER" to benefit the Every Child Succeeds program at the Santa Maria Community Center which benefits at risk, first-time parents to give their children an optimal start in life. **We will be collecting new or gently used baby items from birth to three years old.** This year we have had a request for larger size diapers in addition to the infant sizes. You may bring the items to the office or place them in the boxes provided in the back of church.

**NEW MINISTRY! Our Lady's Outreach** is intended to serve members of our parish to hear and live the **messages of Our Lady given at various apparition sites throughout time and add a service component.** Please join us for our first exciting meeting which will be held **May 8 at 9:30 AM** in the undercroft. Sponsored by Our Lady of Light Ministries. Flyers are located in the back of church.

## SOCIAL ACTION

We are part of a rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching in the Church. This teaching "strives to foster a *living faith* that leads to *loving action* in the world today by raising up a social vision that is transformative, thereby making visible the reign of God". Catholic Social Teaching is made up of Church documents, including encyclicals, council documents and other writings by the popes and bishops. These documents present the Church's reflections on issues facing human beings in society at the time they are written. They have been specifically calling Catholics to take part in the social mission of the Church since 1891, the publication of Pope Leo XII's encyclical *Rerum novarum*, translated *On the Condition of Labor*. These documents call all Catholics into a dialogue to address social issues in their own communities. As part of the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching at St. Xavier Church today, we are called to discuss the issues facing us here today, and to be part of the Church's work toward building the kingdom of God.