

heartbeat

The Pulse of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois

Issue 2
March 2015



**JOIN US FOR
HOLY WEEK**

Sacred Heart Supports Many in Need

Pope Francis Calls For Year of Mercy



SACRED HEART ENGAGED IN STRATEGIC PLANNING

Sacred Heart parishioners are getting an opportunity to help shape the future of the parish in ways that best meet their needs.

Surveys have been used in the past to gather data and feedback, but this is the first time the parish has invested in an integrated strategic plan that is living and breathing and used on a continuum to shape the future growth of the parish.

Facilitating this comprehensive strategic planning process is Wastyn & Associates, a Quad Cities-based consulting firm. They have already begun work with a series of focus groups for parishioners and others with an interest in the parish's future. Groups include current parishioners, Seton and Alleman families, religious education and home-schooled families, parish leadership and staff, our Hispanic community, and even those who no longer call Sacred Heart "home." The information shared will be used for a parish-wide survey to be distributed later this spring. Those who have not yet had an opportunity to participate in a focus group are invited to do so at 10 a.m. on April 12th in the Culemans Hall Cafeteria.

The strategic plan for the parish's future will emerge from data collected through both the focus groups and the survey. This plan will then help to inform Fr. Mark and parish leadership on the most effective ways to advance the parish.

Darlene Steffen, Chair of the Parish Council, says, "It's important we're absolutely sure that we understand the needs and wants of the parishioners, and likewise, that we effectively communicate to them what's needed on their part to help the parish."

This two-way relationship is essential in helping Sacred Heart Parish to remain a vibrant and viable parish that is always being enhanced, improved, and effectively promoted.

THE GOSPEL IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

The Easter season is a wonderful period of the year. Lent is over and we then have seven weeks with so many joyous celebrations. Many of our parishioners will receive the sacraments of initiation. At the Easter Vigil the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will be completed. On April 19th our eighth graders will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Then in May the second graders have the grace of participating fully at Mass for the first time as they receive First Communion.

When I see the wonder on all of the faces of so many as they begin receiving the sacraments I cannot help but think how I take all this for granted. What would happen if we could maintain a small portion of the excitement we felt when we were baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist for the first time?

Some of us are stronger in our faith practice than others. Do we simply shake our heads when our friends and relatives drift away from the church, criticizing them? Or, do we say, "What can I do to bring them back?" Every day during Easter Season we hear stories from the Acts of the Apostles. We reflect on how a few courageous, dedicated individuals went out into a world of non-believers and started a worldwide church. How did they do that?

Pope Francis has reminded us the last two years that we are all to be evangelizers. We need to be able to witness to others by our words and actions. That is our task as we move forward as Sacred Heart parishioners. We are going to try and spread the "good news" of the Gospel.

We remember the great commission at this time of year and hopefully we take that charge to heart. Jesus said to his disciples, "Go out into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation" (Mk 16:15). Now is the time to take up the challenge as we share our faith in word and action. Maybe we can touch someone's life so that they might experience the joy of Easter.

Blessings,
Fr. Mark



SUPPORTING MANY IN NEED

Many local shelters, care centers and safe houses have benefited from the generosity of Sacred Heart parishioners over the years. Men, women, and children have all had their lives touched thanks to parishioners who have contributed their time, talent and treasure.

Winnie's Place and the Christian Care Center are annual recipients of kitchen and small household supplies like toilet paper, paper towels and toiletries, in addition to new clothing, toys and food. These items are then supplied to women and children in safe houses and transitional housing, who are often escaping abusive relationships.

Our parish continues to work with the St. Joseph the Worker House for women and children in Rock Island, which is assisted also by the Benedictine Sisters from St. Mary Monastery. This site has been redeveloped and turned into transitional housing, thanks to the efforts of many friends and volunteers, including those from Sacred Heart.

When we host events at our parish, the leftovers are often given to local meal sites like the Rescue Mission in Rock Island which feeds women, men, and children and also serves as residence for homeless men. Parishioners also contribute additional food, toiletries, paper products, and seasonally appropriate clothing to the Rescue Mission.

Our Sacred Heart Comforters Quilt ministry makes various sized quilts, lap blankets, children's giant pillow bags and similar items for people in many of these shelters and nursing homes throughout the Quad-Cities. Gifts like these become true treasures for the recipients.

We have parishioners who volunteer at Winnie's Wishes, a resale shop in Davenport, where proceeds from sales cover expenses for the shelter at Winnie's Place. Parishioners are encouraged to both donate and buy items at Winnie's Wishes as often as possible. At each of these shelters and outreach centers, donors often remain anonymous, but it's well known throughout these communities that Sacred Heart parishioners have long played a vital role in their ability to help those in need.

As a parish we continue to seek new opportunities and creative ways to support more people in the community. Ideas such as service days hope to be developed that would allow groups of parishioners to spend time at particular shelter or center and take on a larger project of some sort.

Sacred Heart parishioners currently involved in ministry to places of need in our community have found that there is a great joy found in being able to share and express our faith through good works. Likewise, it is very humbling to partake in the work of God to those in need in the Quad Cities. If any parishioners would like to get involved in assisting in the work needed in our community, please contact Sr. Kathleen at (309) 762-2362.



THOUSANDS OF STEPS FOR SETON

Tammy Van Hoe gets pretty excited about the annual Seton Walk-A-Thon, and with good reason. This fundraiser nets over \$25,000 annually and it's all thanks to the great students at Seton as well as a very supportive community of family and friends. This year's Walk-A-Thon is now upon us and the hope is to exceed the \$25,000 goal, as they did last year, when nearly \$30,000 was raised.

Van Hoe, now in her second year at the helm of the Walk-A-Thon, who along with Jill Peterson, oversee this fundraiser that focuses on making it fun for students to help raise money for Seton. It all starts off with a big kick-off pep rally where the 8th graders take the lead in getting the student body fired up with shirts they designed especially for the event, games, and an unveiling of the prizes for the top eighteen students who raise the most money. The theme for this year's Walk-A-Thon is "Back to the Future." In the second movie of the series, Marty goes to the future, which happens to be the year 2015. Playing off this theme, this year's games will be ones from the student's past. Additionally, there will be an actual DeLorean on site! The Walk-A-Thon itself will see the students walking down to Prospect Park and back. The younger kids will participate in a shorter route.

The dollars raised during the Walk-A-Thon help offset tuition costs, fund capital improvements to facilities and help pay for a variety of school enrichment programs. To support the Walk-A-Thon, you can just make a donation with your favorite Seton student. If you don't have any students among your family or friends but would like to donate to the Walk-A-Thon, please call the school office at 309-757-5500.



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK!

This holy season concludes with some of the most beautiful and powerful liturgies of the year. Easter is a good time to invite a friend or a relative to services who has not been to church for a while or does not have a church. We would love to have visitors!

Please join us for any or all of our Holy Week liturgies as we wrap up our Lenten journey:

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper
April 2, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. Mass

Good Friday
April 3, 2015 - 3:00 p.m. Service

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil
April 4, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of The Lord
April 5, 2015
7:00 a.m. (No Incense)
9:00 a.m. (Incense)
11:00 a.m. (Incense)

POPE FRANCIS CALLS FOR YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis announced on Friday the Roman Catholic Church will mark an extraordinary Holy Year, one of its most important events, in which faithful make pilgrimages to Rome and other religious sites around the world.

During the last Holy Year - or Jubilee - in 2000, millions of pilgrims came to Rome to take part in religious festivities throughout the year. Making the surprise announcement in St. Peter's Basilica on the second anniversary of his election, Francis said the Holy Year will focus on the topic of mercy, one of the most important themes of his papacy.

It will start on Dec. 8 of this year and end on Nov. 20, 2016. This will be only the 29th Holy Year in the Church since the tradition started more than 700 years ago. Holy Years normally take place every 25 years unless a pope decrees an extraordinary one to bring attention to a particular topic or need. The next one had been scheduled for 2025.

Francis, who says he wants his Church of 1.2 billion members to be more merciful and less rigid towards sinners, said the Jubilee would be an occasion for all members - and the Church itself - to rediscover the need to be forgiving and generous.

"The Church is the home that accepts everyone and refuses no one ... the greater the sin,

the greater the love that the Church should show towards those who convert," he said.

During a Holy Year, one of the entrances to St. Peter's Basilica, which is known as the Holy Door and normally bricked up, is opened so pilgrims can pass through it. The Holy Doors of Rome's other basilicas are also opened.

According to the Vatican website, a Holy Year should be a time of reconciliation with adversaries and an occasion to promote solidarity, hope and justice in the world.

Faithful who make pilgrimages to religious sites or do good works during a Holy Year can receive indulgences, or the remission of punishment for sins, under certain conditions.

The Vatican said the official proclamation of the Holy Year, known as a papal bull, will be published next month. Cathedrals and other religious venues around the world are expected to be designated as national pilgrimage sites.

The last extraordinary Holy Year was called in 1983 by Pope John Paul II to mark the 1,950 years after the death of Jesus.

Source: Reuters



SACRED HEART

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HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Mass Times

- Sundays: 7, 9, 11 a.m.
- Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.
- Daily Masses (M-F): 6:30, 8:30 a.m.
- Saturday Morning: 8:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday: 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. and by
appointment, call 762-2362.

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

(St. Francis Chapel)

- Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

