



# *heartbeat*

The Pulse of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois

Issue 4  
July 2015

## OUR CHILDREN: FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

Sacred Heart Launches New Website

Join Us For Children's Liturgy of the Word



# OUR CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

August 1 is usually a date we all are alarmed by. Fall and the change of seasons are on the way. We need to take one last vacation. We ask, "Where did the summer go?" We begin to think about school and other activities. We have many wonderful programs for children at our church.

We remember, of course, Seton Catholic School, which is located right here on our parish grounds. If your family has not made a choice for your son or daughter's grade school education there is no better school in the area and we have room in every class level. We would also encourage high school students to consider Alleman High School as well.

Our religious education program has classes for children from pre-school through high school. All parents are invited to contact Ivy Padula at (309) 762-2362, ext. 210, or [ivygoes2church@gmail.com](mailto:ivygoes2church@gmail.com) to get your children enrolled.

The Children's Celebration Choir (K-8th grade), which sings once a month at the 9 a.m. Mass, is also looking for new voices. You can contact Suzie Budde (309) 762-2362, ext. 201, to see how your son or daughter can participate.

If you know of children who did not receive the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation) it is not too late. We can accommodate anyone who wants to receive these sacraments at any time. We just need everyone to encourage relatives and neighbors to call us so their children can enroll in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children.

The fall is coming. We would like as many children as possible to be involved in our parish.

Fr. Mark

## NEW DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FORMED

In the fall of 2014, it was decided that our parish would benefit from finding new sources of revenue to address various needs of the parish. To help accomplish this, a new Development Committee was formed and work began right away on creating opportunities for parishioners, businesses, and friends of the parish to contribute to specific projects.

The first initiative of the committee was the creation of an Annual Fund that sought to raise \$28,000 for the year to address needs ranging from building maintenance to the strengthening of parish ministries and programs. We are happy to report that \$48,000 was received!

Work in year two of our Annual Fund has already begun with the creation of a list of targeted giving opportunities for families to support projects that are not provided for in the operating budget. The upcoming year will also see the expansion of giving opportunities for those who plan to, or who have, established a gift for Sacred Heart in their estate plan. Details on this program will be made available to the parishioners in the coming months.

A strategic planning initiative this group is undertaking involves working with parish groups to determine parish needs over the next several years and how to fund them. Some examples already identified include:

- Investing in our parish buildings to make sure they remain in good shape.
- Building a new parish rectory and determining how to pay for it.
- Providing better accessibility for those requiring assistance getting into our church and other buildings.
- Expanding and funding parish programs.
- Growing the parish endowment fund to provide a steady source of investment revenue.

Committee members include Fr. Mark DeSutter, Colleen Rafferty, Dennis Fox, Dave Wrath, Mike Drymiller and Jim Harl as Committee Chair. Additional members may be added to the committee based on needs identified.

# CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sacred Heart Parish enjoys a vibrant Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) that allows children to develop a deeper understanding of the Word of God in a way that they can easily follow. Children aren't always able to understand the readings during Mass because the wording is sometimes too difficult. We also incorporate art and music into our program to enhance our explanations of what they're experiencing at Mass. Overall, CLOW helps to give our children a better appreciation of the beauty and richness of our liturgy in a way that makes sense to them.

CLOW is celebrated during the 9 a.m. Mass for all children aged three through first grade, who attend Seton, are at Religious Education, or, are home-schooled. Leading CLOW is our wonderful teacher, Melissa Sandoval. If people are interested in helping with this ministry please contact Ivy Padula at (309) 762-2362, ext 210 or email her at ivygoes2church@gmail.com. We are always looking for new people who would like to help with CLOW or Religious Education!

## Religious Education will be starting soon!

Be on the look out for registration forms and calendars. We will be holding Parent/Student days every month with the entire parish being invited to attend. We will also be celebrating Children's Masses once a month at the 9 a.m. Mass with the religious education children, however anyone who is interested in helping is welcome!

# BRINGING HOME CHRIST

Judy Hourigan has been the coordinator and co-chair of the ministry to bring Eucharist to the homebound and sick for the past eight years, after first accepting an invitation to get involved by Raedene DeVooght. She says it is the most gratifying and fulfilling ministry that she has ever been a part of because of the way that it impacts the lives of those she and those in the ministry visit. Since those who are homebound and sick cannot physically make it to Sacred Heart, the ministers serve sometimes as the only link connecting them back to the parish. The visits and conversation are certainly appreciated by those in their homes or at the hospital, but the most important thing to them is to be able to receive the Eucharist. These visits and receiving the Eucharist are like "a drink of fresh water" one homebound member once told Judy.

Besides coordinating visits to Unity Point-Trinity hospital on Sacred Heart's designated days (Wednesdays and Sundays), she also oversees visits to our parish's homebound members, who have been broken up into easy-to-manage routes for volunteer ministers to visit. Fr. Mark and Fr. Sebastian also see to it that they personally visit people each week.

There are currently about ten active volunteers in this ministry but the parish could always use more. If you are interested and feel called to help in this ministry please contact the parish office today at (309) 762-2362 or speak with Fr. Mark.



# SACRED HEART LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Technology changes in the blink of an eye and businesses must keep up if they want to reach the masses. The same can be said for Catholic parishes. Parishes must be prepared to market themselves effectively online as part of what is called "brand management." This, along with online marketing, sometimes seem like foreign concepts to Catholic parishes, which have been slower than our Protestant brothers and sisters to embrace technology as a means to evangelize and reach people.

Now, more than ever, people search online for a new parish home in the same way that they search for hotel rooms, cars, or new houses. A person's first impression of your parish is often now determined by what they find when they Google you. That is why it is vitally important that a parish presents itself well and provides an optimal user experience on their site. Frustrated users won't come back to the site and they are probably less likely to visit the parish in person. Sacred Heart has embraced the idea that good marketing is essential to parish growth and your first point of impact with potential new members is commonly your website. To this end, Sacred Heart has launched a new website aimed at "meeting people where they are" as Pope Francis often says. The new website uses responsive website design, which means the new site adjusts its graphics to display on whatever device you are viewing it on. This means the website is now mobile-friendly and ensures an optimal viewing experience whether you are on your home computer or your smartphone.

Besides being functional, the site is also visually attractive, featuring large, panoramic photos of the parish and parishioners, and integrates Google Maps which allows people to easily map themselves to the parish. This is an ideal feature for those visiting the parish for the first time as potential new parishioners, or those attending a wedding, baptism, or funeral. Practical features like contact forms are used throughout the site to gather data and make communication to the parish office more streamlined with parish software. Lastly, the site serves as an effective landing place for parishioners seeking the parish calendar of upcoming events, ministry schedules and the opportunity to donate online. In all, the new parish website places Sacred Heart at the forefront of effective online marketing and evangelization.



## STRATEGIC PLANNING ENTERS NEXT PHASE

Our parish has moved beyond the fact-finding phase of our strategic planning and we thank all who participated in the discussion groups and filled out the surveys. We appreciate you being a part of planning for our future and taking ownership of the parish's future via your feedback and suggestions.

We had an excellent response rate of 30%, which represents a phenomenal response rate when considering the average survey often lingers below 10%. With more than 450 individuals filling out the survey, we feel very confident moving forward with an appropriate understanding of the needs and desires of our parishioners.

After examining the results of the surveys, key strategies and initiatives have been developed and individual action plans and resources are currently being considered. We hope to communicate our findings and plans of action to our parishioners by the end of summer.

There will be opportunities for parishioners to help implement the action plans and it is very important that all parishioners participate, as these plans were created in response to your needs and desires for our parish.

The most effective parishes in regards to growth are those with broad ownership by its parishioners. We, as a parish, are ready to consider actions that will ensure the future vitality of Sacred Heart. Every one of us will have a roll to play.

## A POPE AND AN iPad

Pope Francis was the first pilgrim to sign up for World Youth Day to be held in Krakow, Poland, launching the opening of registration. Accompanied by two Polish teenagers who wore World Youth Day 2016 T-shirts, the pope had to make a couple of attempts pressing the screen of a tablet before his online registration went through.

"There. With this electronic device I have signed up for the day as a pilgrim," he told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square on Sunday for his Angelus address. The pope said, "I wanted to be the one to open registration" in front of everyone gathered for the Angelus and in the company of two teens. The July 26-31, 2016, celebrations will come during the Holy Year of Mercy, which Pope Francis proclaimed to invite people to follow the merciful example of God, the Father.

World Youth Day "will be, in a certain sense, a jubilee of youth" during the holy year, as its theme is also about being merciful toward others, the pope said. God's merciful power through Jesus "heals every ill of body and spirit," the pope said before praying the Angelus. "Everyone has some kind of talent or skill as well as time, he said. "If we are willing to put them in the Lord's hands they will be enough so that there will be a little bit more love, peace, justice and above all joy in the world."

Source: Catholic News Service

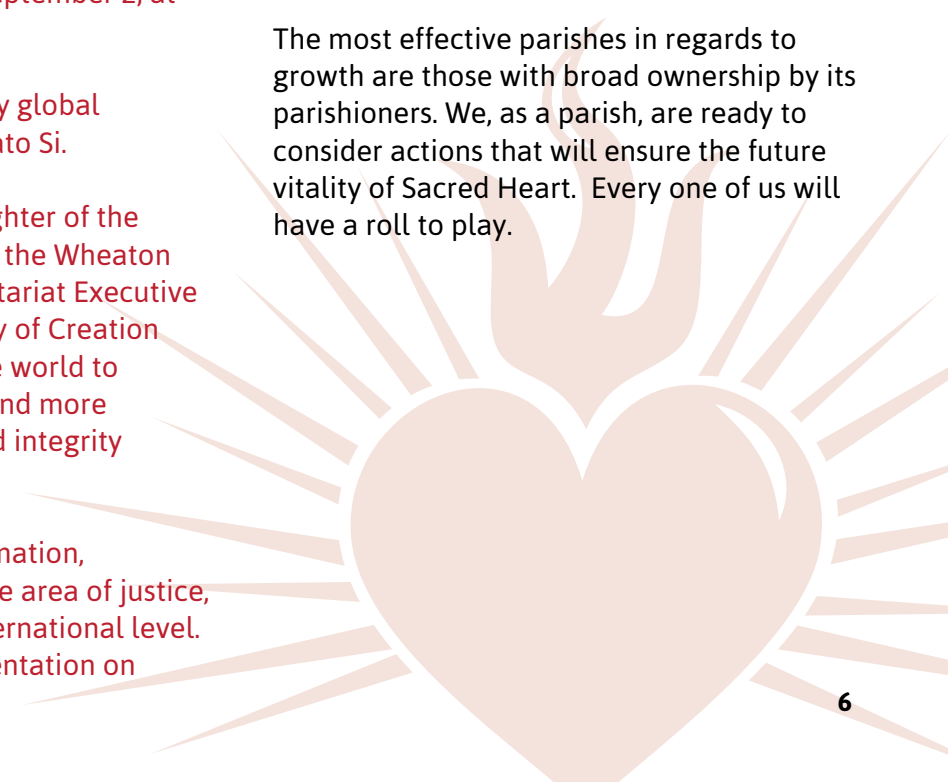
## NOT SURE WHAT THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL IS ALL ABOUT?

Sacred Heart parishioners and friends are invited to a unique opportunity to learn more about Pope Francis' encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home" (Laudato Si') in a presentation by Sister Shelia Kinsey, FCJM on Wednesday, September 2, at 7:00 p.m. in Culemans Hall.

Sister Sheila's position in Rome gives her a truly global perspective on the world-wide impact of Laudato Si.

She is a member of the Franciscan Sisters Daughter of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, also known as the Wheaton Franciscans, and currently serves as JPIC Secretariat Executive Co-Secretary. JPIC: Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation which serves religious communities around the world to promote greater awareness, clearer analysis and more effective action in matters of justice, peace and integrity of creation.

Sister Sheila has a rich background in JPIC animation, administration and advocacy, particularly in the area of justice, peace and nonviolence, both in the US and international level. We hope you can join us for this dynamic presentation on September 2.





# SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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 5:15 p.m.
- First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

