



AUGUST 2012

A Note From Fr. Jim



To create and maintain a Christ-centered Catholic Community where our personal call to holiness, service and spiritual growth leads to continued authentic wit-

SOLON IOWA

St. Mary Parish
Newsletter

1749 Racine Ave NE
Solon, IA 52333
319-624-2228

This has been a summer to remember! Wonderful events have taken place at Saint Mary's. Hundreds of children participating in Vacation Bible School. Older youth journeying to Appleton, Wisconsin, for a Service/Mission trip. A few weeks later other youth heading to Saint Paul, Minnesota, for the annual Steubenville North Conference. I think all the youth received new insights into prayer, faith, and witness.

It's been a busy summer for weddings, too. Eleven couples entered into the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. I certainly wish them every blessing as they begin their new lives as husbands and wives.

We also offered a "mini-course" this summer about the Catholic faith for adult inquirers. I'm sure many who participated in "Seeking Christ" will be joining us for the parish RCIA process this year. If you know of friends who have expressed a desire to know more about the Catholic way of life, be sure to contact me @ 624-2228.

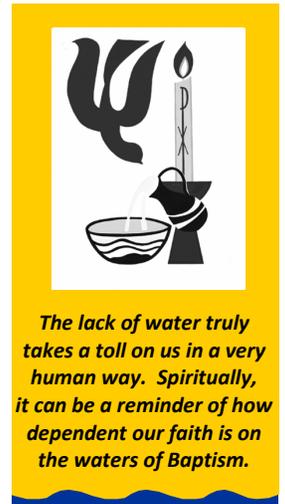
This summer has also been hot and dry. The fields will probably yield a lot less than last summer. You can see the worry of a poorer harvest in the eyes of those who till the soil. We keep praying for them and pray for more seasonable rainfall and temperatures.

The lack of water truly takes a toll on us in a very human way. Spiritually, it can be a reminder of how dependent our faith is on the waters of Baptism. When we embrace the waters of Baptism – applying God's grace in our lives – our faith grows and deepens. The opposite is true. When we stray from the waters of baptism our lives can enter into a spiritual drought.

Thank goodness our Lord gives us the Eucharist to keep in the flow of grace, first given to us in Baptism. Through Eucharist he continues to nourish us through the words of scripture and the real presence of his Body and Blood.

I invite and encourage everyone to take advantage of Eucharist every Lord's Day this coming year. It's the central celebration of our Catholic faith. It's how our faith is renewed so that God's grace may flow through our lives for the week that follows.

It's also the ways the application of God's grace flows back into Eucharist the following Lord's



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NEW Parish Website

www.solonstmary.org

Some pages are under construction—check regularly as new content will be added daily.

Our Parish Family



Ashlynn Mahoney is baptized, parents Kyle & Tammie

Baptisms: *We welcome with great Joy!*

Vivian Marie Johnson	June 17, 2012	Angela Anderson
Cole Timothy Schmitz	June 24, 2012	Eric & Kelli Schmitz
Charlie Thomas Studt	July 07, 2012	Robert Studt & Sara Olson
Nolan Thomas Reynolds	July 14, 2012	Josh & Kristi Reynolds
Jeremiah Daniel Bartlett	July 15, 2012	Seth & Joanna Bartlett
Ashlynn Ann Mahoney	August 5, 2012	Kyle & Tammie Mahoney

New Parishioners: *We welcome you into our family!*

Arlen & Marian Scheffert	Keith & Ashleigh Larson
Joe & Becky Tayler	Frank & Joan Klima
Scot & Cathy DeValk Family	

AUGUST

- 14 6:30 **College Students** in the adult room
- 16 6:30 **Grief Share** in adult room
- 16 6:00 **Mission Trip** Follow-Up Meeting
- 20 5:00 **Helping Hands** Meeting in parish library
- 22 6:30 **Young Adult** Meeting in the adult room
- 28 6:30 **Stewardship** Meeting in parish library
- 30 6:30 **GriefShare** in adult room

SEPTEMBER

- 8 & 9 New Member **Open House** following all Masses
- 9 8:00-noon **Knights of Columbus Breakfast**
- 10 **Parish Council Meeting**, 6:30 parish library
- 13 **GriefShare** in adult room at 6:30
- 15 & 16 **Catechist Blessing** at all Masses
- 22 & 23 **Christ Our Life** Conference in Des Moines
- 26 Start Date **Faith Formation**
- 27 **GriefShare** in adult room at 6:30
- 30 **Harvest Festival** serving lunch 11:00-1:30

OCTOBER

- 1 **Parish Council Meeting**, 6:30 parish library
- 6 & 7 **Shrine trip** to LaCrosse Wisconsin
- 7 **Pet Blessing** noon in parish parking lot
- 9 1st Timers **Baptism Class** 6:30-8:00 in the adult room
- 16 2nd Timers **Baptism Class** 6:30-8:00 in the adult room
- 13 **Young Adult** dinner & talk with Jon Leonetti, 6:30 in parish hall
- 14 **Teen** Lunch & talk with Jon Leonetti, noon in parish hall
- 14 ALL **Parish Mission** talk by Jon Leonetti, 7:00 pm in church
- 15 ALL **Parish Mission** talk by Jon Leonetti, 7:00 pm in church
- 20 & 21 **Stewardship Fair** following all Masses in parish hall
- 21 **Pancake Breakfast**
- 23 Liturgy Committee Mtg
- 24 No Faith Formation Classes—football game

Marriages: *Congratulations on your life together!*

Jessie & Megan Hames	June 15, 2012
Michael & Ashley Ferguson	June 16, 2012
John & Katherine Resler	June 23, 2012
Travis & Kristen Erickson	June 30, 2012
Samuel & Sana Manternach	July 7, 2012
Matthew & Chelsea Pechota	July 14, 2012
Brian & Sara Doyle	July 20, 2012
Daniel & Lauren O'Neil	July 21, 2012
Garret & Mallory Krieger	August 4, 2012

Marriage as a Sacrament in the Church

The Catholic Church teaches that the valid marriage between two baptized Christians is a sacrament – a saving reality and a symbol



of Christ's love for his church (See Ephesians 5:25-33). In every marriage the spouses make a contract with each other. In a sacramental marriage the couple also enters into a covenant in which their love is sealed and strengthened by God's love.

Sacraments bring grace to those who receive them with the proper disposition. Grace is a way of describing how God shares his divine life with us and gives us the help we need to live as followers of Christ. In marriage, the grace of this sacrament brings to the spouses the particular help they need to be faithful and to be good parents. It also helps a couple to serve others beyond their immediate family and to show the community that a loving and lasting marriage is both desirable and possible.

Knights of Columbus BREAKFAST September 9



Serving 8:00—noon

All you can eat pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, made-to-order omelets and biscuits & gravy.

Do you know someone who is interested in learning more about our parish?

Invite them to our **Open Houses** following all Masses the weekend of **September 8 & 9**. In our short gathering (~40 minutes) we share a power point on a year in the life of our parish, learn about

We both really enjoyed the "open house" and are so glad that you had it. We have been living in Solon for almost three years now and have been attending Saint Mary's but were nervous about joining. Solon is such a small, tight-knit town that the act of joining the parish seemed intimidating to us. The "open house" gave us the perfect opportunity to learn more about the parish and feel welcome. The parish tour was very insightful and the church's history was really interesting! The weekend following the "open house" we submitted out paperwork to join the parish knowing that it was the right place for us! Thank you so much for doing the "open house", we hope you continue to have it throughout the year to encourage others to join! We look forward to being involved in the parish and meeting more people.

Megan's Story



Before we were married, Jesse and I decided that I would convert from Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to Catholicism sometime before raising children. After we got engaged and started examining the commitment that we were about to make and how God also played a part in that commitment, it became clear to me that I wanted to go through RCIA before our wedding. For me,

RCIA was a reinforcement and deepening of the faith that I already had, but the educational component gave me a new respect and appreciation for the ancient and recent history of the Catholic faith. Fr. Vrba was an engaging and fun leader, taking special care to answer, address, and research -if needed- the sometimes challenging questions us candidates had about Christianity and Catholicism.

Aside from the education that RCIA provided, it was also a social opportunity to make connections! My sponsor, Mary Knight, has become a friend of Jesse and I; she generously coordinated a dove release after our wedding ceremony. I am so grateful for the RCIA experience, and as Jesse and I prepared for our wedding ceremony, it made us feel like St. Mary's was our true church home. As the wedding approached, we worked closely with Fr. Vrba to select our readings and songs to tailor our wedding ceremony to make it very special to us. One moment that Jesse and I are still in awe of was when Fr. Vrba and our guests sang a Nuptial Blessing to us. Without a doubt, the Holy Spirit was surrounding us – it was an awesome experience that we will treasure forever.

Garret's Story



My name is Garret Kreiger and my wife Mallory and I recently celebrated our marriage at St. Mary's. The Catholic Church has always been an important topic of discussion throughout our relationship. When we first started dating I was unsure of my perceptions of the Catholic church and its traditions and beliefs. When Mallory and I started to discuss the idea of getting married, Mallory was

very forthcoming in her desire to continue her family traditions of getting married in the Catholic church and I supported her in this. After reflecting on what we hoped for our future, we decided mutually that I would convert to the Catholic church in anticipation of raising any children that we are blessed with through the Catholic church and we wanted our mutual faith to unite our family.

We were lead to Fr. Vrba through several work colleagues of Mallory who were impressed by his youthfulness and easy going nature. After meeting Fr. Jim initially through our marriage preparations it seemed natural for me to begin the RCIA process the following September and receive the sacraments during the Easter Vigil. This would allow us to celebrate the sacrament of marriage both as members of the Catholic church. I had a very positive experience with the RCIA program at St. Mary's. I made several friendships and learned a lot about the Catholic church - things I probably would have never learned if not for the size of the group and the questions we asked. In terms of marriage preparations Mallory and I both had a positive experience meeting with our sponsor couple, Dean and Carole Martin, and meeting several times with Fr. Jim.

What is RCIA? The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* is the way adults can become Catholic. It begins with a choice, and it ends with a choice. It begins with the desire to learn more about Christ and the Catholic Church. Throughout the year, a small group meets regularly to learn about the faith. At the end of this process, the person can choose to be fully initiated into the faith—through Baptism (unless already baptized) and Eucharist and Confirmation. ***This year's RCIA group will meet on Wednesdays, beginning mid-September. (childcare provided if needed) Contact the parish office or watch the bulletin for more information.***

Fall Shrine & Sightseeing Trip *MAKE Hotel Reservations by August 19*

PLAN NOW to take your family NORTH the weekend of October 6 & 7.

Saturday, October 6 Join others from St. Mary's, in McGregor,



\$15/adults \$5/children

Voyage.

Iowa at 4:00. Enjoy a 1 1/2 –2 hour scenic trip on the Mississippi River as you meander the beautiful backwaters of the Upper Mississippi on the 49 passenger Maiden

15 rooms are reserved at Best Western Hotel in Prairie Du Chien.

Sunday, October 7 Join the group in LaCrosse Wisconsin at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. With over 100 acres of rolling hillsides, open valleys and verdant fields, the Shrine grounds provide a place of peace and serenity. Devotional areas and meditative trails provide a spiritual setting for an encounter with God.

Mass at 1:00 and a video tour begins at 2:15



Arrangements for this trip are being made by parishioner Jeannie Haight. Transportation is not provided. Call if Jeannie if you have any questions or if you plan to join the group. Make hotel reservations directly by calling Best Western at 608-326-

St. Mary Harvest Festival

Proceeds from the parish's annual Harvest Festival support many aspects of the parish needs: from helping teens attend mission trips to purchasing items needs for the parish hall. This year we would like to use the profits to pay down the loan for finishing the lower level of the parish hall.

There are many ways to support the Harvest Festival.

Donate your time and your talents to make this our best year yet for the Harvest Festival. *It is a great way for kids to use their time and talents as a way to respond in thanksgiving for all that God has given to them:*

- ◇ Join us that day for dinner and games
- ◇ Prepare craft or food items for the Country Store
- ◇ Put together a theme basket for the Bidding Barn
- ◇ Work one of the various jobs or shifts
- ◇ Sign up to bring a salad or dessert—let your kids make it
- ◇ Use suggestions below to come up with your own ideas

WATCH for a parish mailing with more information about the festival's activities, donating items or working, and your family's raffle tickets.



St. Mary of Solon Harvest Festival

September 30
Pork & Chicken
Dinner Served 11:00
-1:30

Polka Band at 8:30 & 10:30 Masses

Adult = \$10
Children 6-12 = \$6 Under 6 = Free

*Dinner
Children &
Family Activities*





The Country Store is the perfect venue to share your talents with others. Do you love to bake or are you talents in preserving the fruits and vegetables of summer? Items donated are available for sale during the Harvest Festival. If you have questions about the Country Store, please contact Judy Meier and 319-626-2584.

Examples to share:

Baked Goods including: Pies Brownies Cookies Bread Kolaches



The Bidding Barn accepts items for a silent auction held throughout the Harvest Festival. If you don't know what to donate—get the family involved and create a themed basket. Baskets can be as small as tickets to the movies with a gift certificate to a restaurant (Dinner and a Movie) or as elaborate as a weekend package to a Bed and Breakfast. Donated items should be new or gently used. If you have questions about what sells, please contact Pat Zimmer at 319-337-8296.

Some Suggestions... Antiques Children's Toys New Furniture Handcrafted Furniture/items
Afgans Gift Certificates Dinner Parties Hawkeye Tickets Power Tools
Pontoon Boat Ride Snowmobile Outing Camper for a weekend Canoe/kayak

loan



Coming this FALL

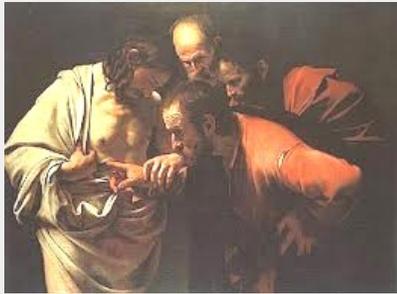
Don't Miss These **TWO Great Opportunities** to Connect (or re-connect) with Christ and His Church

CHRIST OUR LIFE

Regional Catholic Conference

September 22 & 23, 2012

Wells Fargo Arena—Des Moines, IA



Are you a Doubting Thomas at times or struggle in your faith? At any given point, we can become fearful, confused, in search of answers and courage. Trust in the good news and His reassurance:

"Thomas, put your finger here in my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" John 20:20-27

All-Weekend Pass: \$25.00

Students/Youth: \$15.00

Call the parish office to purchase tickets: 624-2228.
or BUY after Mass: Aug 18 & 19, Sept. 8 & 9, 15 & 16
Call Patty Erusha at 624-2537 for hotel options.

This is a great conference for ALL ages! Come for a day or stay overnight for both. Gather your family, friends and fellow parishioners for a couple's get-away, weekend with friends, or with your teen and young adult children. **Don't miss**



Immaculée Ilibagiza Her world changed forever in 1994 when she endured the Rwan-dan geno-cide that claimed over 800,000 lives. After hiding for 91 days with seven other women in a tiny bathroom, she emerged to share her dynamic story of triumph over evil. **Come and hear her talk about subjects that really**

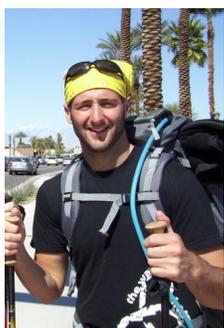


John Pridmore This London gangster thought he had it all... showy cars, women, crack-cocaine and power. Now, speaking from his perspective as a reformed criminal, John shares when he felt no remorse after almost killing a man and how Christ gave him the courage to turn it all around. **Come hear him talk about how the power of Christ can help us overcome any addiction.**



Archbishop Garcia Siller The eldest of 15 kids, beloved by many, a strong advocate for the poor, this Archbishop of San Antonio will challenge us to focus on what unites us as Catholics. His strong outreach and compassion will infuse new energy and hope in us. **Come hear him talk about how we can better serve our families and communities and reignite our faith together.**

Solon St. Mary PARISH MISSION with JON LEONETTI



Born and raised in Iowa, **Jon garnered national attention in 2009 while walking from California to New Jersey.** Along the way he promoted prayer as a means of turning away from the empty promises of lust, fame and greed to find life's true satisfaction in

our calling from Christ.

As an international Catholic speaker, youth minister, parish mission leader and radio host, Jon has dedicated his life to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in a faithful, energetic, and humorous way to thousands everywhere.

Jon and his wife Teresa live in Des Moines, Iowa, and are expecting their first child in December.

Coming to Solon October 13—15

October 13 & 14 Speaking at all three Masses
October 13 **Young Adult Dinner & Talk 6:30**
October 14 **Teen Lunch & Talk noon**
October 14 **All-Parish Talk 7:00pm**
October 15 **All-Parish Talk 7:00pm**

We are all on a journey. And no one journey is the same. A Catholic journey is filled with struggles, difficulties, hopes and fears ... joys, sadness, failure and success. And the best part is we are not alone. We have a God who desires to walk intimately with us each step of the way. -Jon

"We have had countless parishioners tell us that this was one of the most meaningful missions they had ever attended." Our Lady of the Rosary Land O'Lakes, FL.

"One of the most compelling parish missions we have



twitter 

@ Jon_Leonetti

www.jdleonetti.com

Jon will be the MC at the Christ Our Life Conference

Catholics believe that marriage comes as a gift from the hand of God.



Marriage is both a natural institution and a sacred union because it is rooted in the divine plan of creation. It is the intimate union and equal partnership of a man and a woman. It comes to us from the hand of God, who created male and female in his image, so that they might become one body and might be fertile and multiply. Though man and woman are equal as God's children, they are created with important differences that allow them to give themselves and to receive the other as a gift.

Jesus said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." Matt. 19:4-6

THE PURPOSE & MEANING OF MARRIAGE
God's design of marriage has two fundamental and essential ends: the unity of the spouses and the procreation of children.

These two purposes are entirely equal, and together help us to understand God's design for a true and valid marriage. This unitive aspect is more than just a fleeting feeling, it is a conscious decision to love sacrificially, to love unconditionally, to give and receive without counting the cost, until death. God's way also calls a married couple to "be fruitful and multiply". Children, another purpose of marriage, are brought forth in the marital act, as the husband and wife become "cooperators with God for giving life to a new human person"

Our culture's view of marriage has strayed far from what God has revealed to us as a necessary connect with the procreation of children and the raising of families. Can we redefine, what God has given, so people have a "right" to these benefits? (sexual satisfaction, companionship and financial and social benefits) When did we cease being a nation protect-

General Principles for Catholic Voters

Article from the four diocese of Kan-
The practice of our Catholic Faith is not reserved only to Sunday or to the worship of God at Mass; rather, it is a way of life intended to affect our thinking, speaking and acting, whether we are at home with family, at work, or in the voting booth.

In this regard, our Catholic Faith is very relevant, and the practice of it makes the world a different, a better place. Our Catholic Faith forms in us the following values, just to name a few:

We are a part of others, not apart

We see ourselves as one with God, with other Catholics (all over the earth, in Purgatory and in Heaven), and with the human family in general. It makes a difference when we think not only of me and mine, but of we and ours as well, inclusive of God, family, friends, parishioners, fellow citizens, strangers, even enemies.

We care for others

As a consequence of our oneness, we take responsibility for one another. Our duty to care for others is greatest when their ability to care for themselves is least. This duty begins and is greatest at the moment of conception until birth. It lessens, though never entirely as people grow into adulthood, and increases again as they age or become sick.

We regard human life as sacred

Our reverence for human life inspires us to care for others, especially to protect and defend people from harm. No one is justified in taking another human life, except in self-defense, as in a just war or capital punishment. Homicide, suicide, abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research are actions that kill another human life and that can never be morally justified.

We honor marriage and family life

New human life is created as the fruit of the love between one man and one woman who by their own free will are joined by marriage in a faithful and life-long relationship. This is the ideal for marriage that we learn from nature and from God. We strive to promote and defend this ideal because it is the best way to conceive new life and to nurture a child with the unique love of both a father and a mother.

We respect the dignity of every human

People have a fundamental right to life, which serves as the basis for their dignity and for their right to those things needed to live in dignity, for example: productive work and fair wages, food and shelter, education and health care, protection from harm, and the right to move from

"Approval of state-sponsored homosexual unions has very quickly become a litmus test for bigotry.. Are Americans so exceptional that we are free to define "marriage" (or other institutions we did not invent) at will? What are we re-defining? Neither Church nor state invented marriage, and neither can change its nature. Marriage exists because human nature comes in two complementary sexes: male and female. The sexual union of a man and woman is called the marital act because the two become physically one."

one country to another when these things are not available. How these things are made available to people is a matter of prudential judgment, where people of good will might disagree.

We serve, even make sacrifices, to benefit others Service and sacrifice are among the best ways to show that our neighborly love is authentic, which in turn shows that our love of God is genuine. Our service is humble and our sacrifice complete such that no service is beneath our dignity and no sacrifice beyond us.

We are stewards, not owners
No matter if we are talking about who we are, what we are able to do or what we have, and whether that is something we

Mission Trip—Alive In You

By Celine Klosterman,
The Catholic Messenger

A Catholic conference and service trip got 22 youths from St. Mary's in Solon fired up for their faith. The parish youth group and three chaperones spent July 10-15 in Appleton, Wis., for Alive in You, which offered speakers, Mass, reconciliation, team building, faith sharing, games and a service opportunity. Solon youths painted, cleaned, and helped with landscaping and other preparations for the Experimental Aircraft Association's late-July air show in Oshkosh, Wis. "It was awesome to have our parish there working together to reach common goal," said Reagan Johnson, 17.

"For lots of families, this air show is their summer vacation because they can't afford anything more," said Sean Lokmer, St. Mary's youth minister. He said some youths had hoped to directly serve families in need, but he tried to convince service teams they were "paying it forward to families we may never meet."



Praying before beginning service work

After three days of service, Alive in You offered a weekend-long conference. "They'd pump us up with games, music and speakers, and put us on fire for Christ every night," said Lauren Benzing, 17. But the conference also emphasized practical ways for youths to practice their religion at home. "It's easy to live out your faith when you have all these Catholic people around you, but how are you going to do so during the drudgeries of daily life?" Lokmer said. Speakers' suggestions included daily Mass, prayer and Eucharistic adoration. "The focus of the whole week was that Jesus in the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith," Benzing recalled. "You can come to the Eucharist for strength in hard times." She and fellow parishioner Reagan Johnson, 17, were especially inspired by witness talks, including one from a man who spoke on grieving the loss of his son. "I absolutely loved the speakers," Johnson said. "Not only because they told how they fought through struggles, but because they focused on the positive and shared how God helped them get to the highs of their life." She and Benzing spoke to St. Mary youths, too. "The theme of my talk was that our gifts aren't all about us – they're more about how to give back to God," Johnson said. "Nothing you do would be possible without him. If you keep all the pride for yourself, it will weigh down on you, but giving the glory to him is like taking a weight off your shoulders." Alive in You reminded her she has fellow Catholics to turn to in times of need. "It was re-



The teens and chaperones would like to thank all those parishioners and parish groups whose generous donation helped the keep the cost of the trip financially viable.

Franciscan LEAD

My name is Raiden Takeuchi, and I had the amazing opportunity to attend Franciscan LEAD conference the week before our parish youth attended Steubenville. LEAD is a Catholic leadership opportunity for teens who want to take their faith to a new level. I felt that I wanted to grow my faith and LEAD definitely helped me to do that. LEAD is the acronym for Leadership, Evangelization and Discipleship training, and this conference gave me tools I need to build a stronger faith and try to bring it to others in our parish and community, especially other teens. I was one of 32 teens attending this year, and our entire group became very close and strongly bonded in our faith. We really felt that we were all brothers and sisters bound by the virtue of our baptism. In fun, dynamic, and eye-opening sessions, based on scripture, saints, and sacraments, we learned how to build our own prayer life and personal relationship with Christ, overcome sin and be witnesses of our faith to others. There is so much that I experienced and learned, that I'd have to write a book to cover it all. I feel so empowered with the close relationship I have built with Christ, and am overcome with excitement to share this faith with others. The only hard part of the week was saying good bye to the new friends in Christ that I had made. Thanks to Saint Mary's for sponsoring me at the conference. It's the 8th day!! Time to get moving with our faith!!



Raiden Takeuchi with teens from around the Mid-West at LEAD

In 2010 Hillary Kaefring & Lauren Benzing attended LEAD. In 2011 Andrew Barenz, Sammy Eckirch, Hillary Kaefring & Holly Koffron attended LEAD. Teens who have been to a conference & are attending the current summer conference, can apply in February for this leadership program.

Trip #8 to Steubenville NORTH!!

From July 27th-29th over 2100 teenagers from the United States & Canada descended upon St. Thomas University in St. Paul, MN to take part in the annual Steubenville North Conference. Our parish was proud to send 58 teens and 10 chaperones to the conference. Throughout the weekend the teens were focused on "The Eighth Day" theme of the weekend which is based on Isaiah 43:1-"But now thus says the Lord, who created you O' Jacob and formed you O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." The focus was on how deeply and personally God knows and cares for each one of us. The teens had three separate opportunities to attend Confession as over 40 priests from around the US came to make available the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The star studded line up of speakers included national chastity speaker Leah Darrow, national motivational speaker Sean Forrest, and "The Traveling Hobbit": Deacon Ralph Poyo and Fr. John Amsberry. The band Sonar provided uplifting and outstanding music throughout the entire weekend. St. Mary Parish was especially honored to have our Diocesan Director of Vocations, Fr. Thom Hennen join us at the Conference.



St. Mary Youth—with Friday's t-shirts: We R Loved



Fr. Thom Hennen

On Friday night, Leah Darrow, encouraged the teens to make a new beginning for themselves no matter what has happened in the past. **"Never let your past dictate your future. Once you receive forgiveness from Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation you turn over a new page."** There were separate men's and women's sessions for the teens and chaperones. Deacon Ralph Poyo delivered a powerful message to men: **"Love is a choice, it's an action. Even when you may not feel it, we are still called to love. That's because God wants faith, not feelings."**

The group experienced powerful Eucharistic Adoration on Friday and Saturday nights. The conference concluded on Sunday with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Neinstadt. Near the end, approximately 80 young men and 60 young women came forward to seek



Thank you to parishioners and parish groups whose generous financial support helped to make the trip possible.

prayers for discerning a vocation to serve Christ as a priest or religious sister.

St. Mary Parish Facilities Consider having your event at St. Mary's



The Main Hall:

Seating for up to 300
Convenient location
An attached full industrial kitchen
Accessible restrooms
Adjustable lighting
Two cordless microphones
Early set-up available
Wonderful Sound system
Ample Parking
Non-smoking
No need to rent a dance floor
Choose your own vendors
Wireless Internet

If you are interested in booking a room for your event, contact Renee Gleason or the parish to receive guidelines and regulations for hall rentals. Those renting facilities will need to complete a contract and provide a damage deposit to secure the date. Full payment needs to be made 30 days prior to your event

Please Remember:

- ◆ Events need to conclude by 11 p.m.
- ◆ Wedding receptions need approval of our pastor.
- ◆ The renting party must provide a copy of their home owner's certificate of liability insurance.



The Lower Level

Our lower level might be just the space for your shower or small gathering. Our event room holds 50 people and has a full kitchen just off the large gathering area. Natural lighting from the west makes this room very inviting. Perfect for family reunions!

Renee Gleason, Hall Manager

Rgleason14@gmail.com

or

Phone: 319.624.2228

Solonstmary@diodav.org

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the community and the major sponsors for supporting the Solon Knights of Columbus Golf outing July 7th. This year the \$1300 net proceeds all went to Habitat for Humanity who is building a home in Solon. The Knights made an additional \$700 contribution from previous fundraising efforts. Major sponsors of the event included Billion Automotive, Lake McBride Golf Club and Calloway Golf.

The Knights congratulate the winning 4 some Paul Mazzacco, Mike Sattler, Jack Evans, Dan Johnson. Thanks also go out to the community for supporting Habitat for Humanity both from financial support and through working many hours on building the home.



Mike Sattler and Paul Mazzacco, two of the four winners at the Knights of Columbus golf outing.



KC member Dean Martin presenting Ashley Wahlert a check to Habitat for Humanity for \$2,000 while working a day at the build site.



Stop by and see the progress at 413 S. Dubuque St. Solon. **Additional volunteers are needed to complete the home.**

Contact: ashley@iowavalleyhabitat.org for volunteer information

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Contact parishioner Terry Rasmussen at 624-2391

Many people of faith today are asking, "What is the price of religious liberty?"

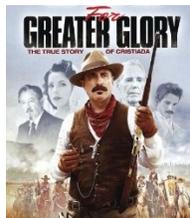
In the 1920's many Catholics in Mexico answered this crucial question at the cost of their very lives.

The 1920s brought a revolution to Mexico, along with the widespread persecution of Catholics. Missionaries were expelled from the country, Catholic seminaries and schools were closed, and the Church was forbidden to own property. Priests and laymen were told to denounce Jesus and their faith in public; if they refused, they faced not just punishment but torture and death.

During this time of oppression and cruelty, the Knights of Columbus did not retreat in Mexico but grew dramatically, from 400 members in 1918 to 43 councils and 6,000 members just five years later. In the United States at the time, the Knights handed out five million pamphlets that described the brutality of the Mexican government toward Catholics. As a result, the Mexican government

greatly feared and eventually outlawed the Order.

Thousands of men, many of whom were Knights, would not bow to these threats or renounce their faith, and they often paid with their lives or endured great persecution. They took a stand when that was the most difficult thing they could do, and their courage and devotion have echoed down through the decades.



COMING THIS FALL... Watch for parish showings of *For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristiada*. Learn about Mexico's heroic struggle for religious freedom in the Cristero War. What drove the Mexican government to



Our Principles

The works we do are informed by our four core principles:

Charity - Our Catholic faith teaches us to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Knights recognize that our mission, and our faith in God, compels us to action. There is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need.

Unity - None of us is as good as all of us. So we stick together. That doesn't mean we always agree or that there is never a difference of opinion. It does mean that - as a Knight of Columbus - you can count on the support and encouragement of your brother Knights as you work to make life better in your parish and community.

Fraternity - The Venerable Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, in large part, to provide assistance to the widows and children left behind when the family breadwinner died - often prematurely. The Order's insurance program continues to do this today, as do individual Knights, who last year gave more than 10 million hours to assist sick and/or disabled members and their families.

Patriotism - Members of the Knights of Columbus, are proud of their devotion to God and country, and believe in standing up for both. Whether it's in public or private, the Knights remind the world that Catholics support their nations



Vacation Bible School...by the numbers

During the week of July 16-20, 185 K-6th graders took to the SKY during Vacation Bible School. The kids quickly learned that nothing is impossible for God – the sky's the limit. Long after the week is ended, the hope is that the memories, lessons, and songs continue to resound in their hearts with the message...*Up, up and away we go, into the great beyond. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we're trusting in God all*

Adult Volunteers

Helped during VBS week or before with material preparation, registration, or decorating.

Courtney Holubar
 Hillary Kaefering
 Chris Greazel
 Carole Martin
 Patty Benzing
 Marge Hartman
 Robin Kelly
 Angela Mahoney
 Kelli Roskopf
 Kara Gourley
 Mary Henk
 Sharon Sprague
 Kristin McGonigle
 Linda Slusher
 Kendra Haluska
 Mabelle Henneberry
 Nancy Brown
 Molly Bock
 Val Calderwood
 Jeannie Haight
 Stephanie Hoepfer
 Christine Newell
 Claire Shafer
 Ben Kelly
 Kelly Foster
 Tina Steinbrech
 Cami Rasmussen
 Sarah Hancox
 Natalie Heineman
 Diane Wurzer
 Diane Berns
 Margo Redlinger
 Ellen Stout
 Brenda Platz
 Mary Christensen
 Julie Koeppel
 Teri Kerkhoff
 Ed Goldsmith
 Fran Neuzil
 Denise Miller
 Carole Steinbrech
 Billy Rushek
 Nancy Schmidt
 Karen Foster
 Joan Thompson
 Patricia Meehan



A "Flight Crew" in Storytelling



185

Each day, 185 kids in grades K-6, rotated through Bible story, craft, and game activity stations, learning **they can always trust in God no matter** who you are, how you feel, what happens, what others do,



Wrapping Lazarus in Storytelling



Craft Room (which included science projects like Exploding Volcanoes)

6th



Planning their activity for the Care Center

The 6th grade participants have a different daily schedule centered on serving. In addition to leading the ministries at the VBS Mass, they wrapped 1,000 12week baby models for the Johnson County Right to Life; the four crews planned and then led an activity at their visit to the Solon Care Center; and they participated in a scavenger hunt around Solon to hear from local leaders on how others are served through Habitat House, Food Pantry, Senior Dining program, and Beef Days fundraising, ending with ice-cream in the park.

1,000

Wrapping 1,000 Babies



Leading four activities with Care Center Residents



Solon Food Pantry with Sandy Hanson



The glue that holds VBS together: teens serving either as crew leaders or on support teams in the nursery, games, and

**7-12th Grade
Volunteers**

- Katy Clevenger
- Alex Benton
- Lauren Roeder
- Grace Keith
- Mady Hess
- Madi Shafer
- Grace Henk
- Lindsey Reicks
- Megan Beuter
- Zach Camacho
- Chad Thielen
- Blake Newell
- Nate Tucker
- Patrick Maston
- Alan Millman
- Annabelle Stimmel
- Levi Schwartz
- Keegan Hess
- Madison Ruhlman
- Caroline Wilford
- Christian Ritchie
- Libby Day
- Ryleigh Hancox
- Makayla Grimm
- Katie Moore
- Lauren Schwartz
- Jarrett Stallman
- Brandi Uhlenkamp
- Grace Colton
- Karly Benzing
- Eva Platz
- Jordie Johnson
- Lauren Geistkemper
- Josh Koeppel
- Angela Erusha
- Dylan Benton
- Jenna Roskopf
- Payton Hancox
- Lorin Brokaw
- Megan Beuter
- Kurtis Gourley
- Nichole Breesse
- Chloe Thole
- Emma Winders
- Ellie Stimmel
- Katie McGrane
- Megan Tucker
- Jeni Tucker
- Madison Ringdahl
- Cescily Vance
- Jessica Birch
- Mallory Miller
- Samantha Miller
- Mikayla Johnston
- Kylie Holubar
- Marcus Martin
- Christian Haight
- Blake Berns
- Makayla Suchomel
- Grace McCarty
- Ella Steinbrech
- Keela Uhlenkamp
- Lauren Benzing
- Annelyn Broghammer
- Jesse Wolfe
- Jill Prentice
- Nick Melchert
- Kenedy Heeney
- Marie Maston
- McKenzie Worden
- Maegan Bruene
- Sydney Hauer
- Alison McKinnie
- Noelle Martin
- Brittany Slusher
- Andrew West
- Raiden Takeuchi
- Jared Newell
- Brittany Brown
- Allegra Johnson
- Brooke Brown
- Holly Koffron

28

28 Flights Crews (small groups of 5-8 kids) ro-tated through the stations, snack, and opening & closing celebrations



1

Opening and Closing Celebrations led by Chris, Courtney, and Hillary (Flash Skywalker).

ONE God we can trust no matter what happens in our



3



6,000



Display at the JoCo Fair for Johnson County Right to Life. VBS family pictures are on display board



Throughout the week, the kids raised \$709.26 for this summer's VBS service project (along with \$500 donated by the Catholic Foresters): packaging 6,000 meals for the Kids Against Hunger (KAU) Program which they did on Wednesday of VBS. KAU has provided over 200 million meals for children and their families in more than 60 countries through the





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PERMIT NO. 13
SOLON, IA 52333

St. Mary Church

1749 Racine Ave NE
Solon, IA 52333
319-624-2228

Weekend Masses:

5:00 Saturday
8:30 & 10:30 Sunday

Reconciliation (Confession):

4:00-4:30 Saturday
or by appointment



BACK TO SCHOOL

A Parents' Prayer for Students

Dear Lord,
As my children leave for school,
I pray that you will keep them in your care.
Send your Spirit to open their minds
to all that is true and beautiful and good.
Help them to see the gifts and talents
you have given them and to use them well.
Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom.
Help them to be kind to others
and lead others be kind to them.
Give their teachers patience and understanding
and help them teach what is just and true.
Send your angels to guide and guard my children
and to keep them from all harm.
Open their young hearts to your presence
and enfold them in your peace and protection.
Hold them in the palm of your hand
and bring them home safely at day's end.
Amen.

ConcordPastor.blogspot.com

Youth Formation begins Sept. 26

A Student's Prayer

Help me remember that you're always by my side
at school and all day long.
Help me be the best student I can be,
using all the gifts and talents you've given me.
Help me study well and often
– especially when I don't feel like studying at all!
Help me finish all my homework – on time.
Help me listen to my teachers and coaches.
Help me play fair and play safely,
Help me be honest when I'm tempted to cheat.
Help me always tell the truth.
Help me be kind to everyone at school
and to treat others as I'd want them to treat me.
Help me make good friends
and help me be a good friend to others.
Help me know how I can help others
and to ask for help when I need it myself.
Help me love and respect, trust and appreciate my
parents- and to be honest with them.
Help me remember that you're with me always,
Lord, and that you'll never leave my side.
Amen.

ConcordPastor.blogspot.com

ENCLOSED:

Faith Formation
Registration Forms for
grades K-12

Catechists Needed:

*Seeking enthusiastic people
who want to set young hearts
on fire with the love of God by
sharing their faith.*

Catechists needed for grade:

- † **1st** 1 Lead Catechist
- † **2nd** 2 Lead and 2 Assistant Catechists
- † **4th** 1 Lead and 1 Assistant Catechists
- † **5th** 2 Lead and 1 Assistant Catechists
- † **8th** 2 Lead Catechist
- † **9th** 1 Lead Catechist
- † **10-12th** 1 Asst. Catechist

Contact Julie for K-6th grades
Contact Sean for 7-12th grades