



Don't Forget

- To get the APARE Retreat on your calendar (see last page)
- Watch for the next newsletter in January
- Get your membership dues in.

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Advent: Reflecting on the Inside

From Theresa Roberts, APARE president, St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I pray that your formation activities are going well.

There is a lot of change in my life right now. My kids are growing up, moving out, getting married and having children of their own, while at the same time I still have two in high school which keeps my husband Matt and I grounded in parenting teenagers. I have also been adapting to the change in Pastor and staff at St. Barnabas. These changes have caused me to think about my years as a professional Administrator of Religious Education.

Religious Education is a fluid ministry. When I was first hired 15 years ago, I was very part time, concentrating on Preschool Religion Readiness. My responsibilities grew as staff changes took place. For

the past 10 years, I have been a full time DRE. One thing that has remained constant is my need for the support of my peers. When I was part time with 6 young children, I learned how to balance my work and family. Now my children are at different stages of their lives, and I am definitely not working part time! I still look to the wisdom and experience of others to find balance and creativity.

Some of the support I have found is by attending programs and meetings offered by APARE, OCE, and parishes. Other support is more intentional like the APARE retreat and Fall Day. This newsletter is no exception. I was eager to read the article by Theresa Shaw about Saturday Religious Education. You can bet that I will be calling her for more insight on her program.

I want to extend huge Thank You to the following APARE members:

✦ The South Deanery for the wonderful Fall Day. Dede Swinehart led us in a great day of reflecting on our own Baptismal call. Annette Calloway and Becky Cope facilitated the planning and hospitality. The Fall gatherings are a pleasure.

✦ The newest members of APARE Leadership team, Rosalie Hawthorne, Teresa Keith, and Lisa Whitaker.

✦ The North Deanery for planning the retreat in January. I recently experienced a Living your Strengths reflection day with St. Barnabas Leadership. It was an enlightening day and I look forward to our retreat.

May you all have peace and joy in all that you do.

Welcome New Administrators

- ✦ **Mary Behe**-St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville
- ✦ **Shawn Brown**—St. Rita, Indianapolis
- ✦ **Sr. Mary Ann DeFazio SP**- St. Christopher's in Indianapolis
- ✦ **Christa Dohmen** - St. John the Baptist, Dover and St. Joseph, St. Leon
- ✦ **Francine Gettelfinger & Gayle Schrank** s- St. Mary in Navilleton
- ✦ **Christine Meeker** - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City
- ✦ **Michelle & Donn Paquette** - St. Martin, Yorkville & St. Paul, New Alsace
- ✦ **Kara Tsuleff**—St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
- ✦ **Barbara White**—St. Gabriel, Connersville
- ✦ **Michelle Fessel** - at St. Mary, Lanesville (new place)

Announcement of "Year for Priests"

By Becky Cope, Our Lady of the Greenwood, South Deanery

Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a "Year for Priests" spanning the period from June 19, 2009 to June 19, 2010. The pontiff announced this year for the priesthood in a homily given during the vesper service at St. Peter's Basilica on June 19th. In that homily he expressed the theme "faithfulness of Christ, faithfulness of Priests." His incentive is "to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel." This proclamation was prompted by two considerations: 1) celebration of the 150th anniversary of the death (1459) of the eminent cleric Saint Jean Marie Vianney (John Mary Vianney); and 2) the need to restore the prestige of the priesthood sullied by recent sexual abuse scandals. Pope Benedict reveres the holy French priest, popularly known as the Curé d'Ars (Pastor of Ars), as a paragon of and model for the priesthood. The pontiff heralded the year by officially declared the humble pastor of the village of Ars in France as the patron saint of all priests worldwide. In reinvigorating the priesthood, he explained that spe-

cial emphasis will be given to clarifying the spiritual identity of the priest who is often submerged by the demands of pastoral work.

Pope Benedict has addressed a letter to all priests worldwide, stating that sanctity "does not begin from the external, but from the heart of, the priestly vocation, from the concrete priestly sanctity that is offered us by the holy Curé d'Ars, St. John Vianney."

The Pope asserts the intent to "enkindle in the heart of every priest a generous and renewed commitment to the ideal of complete self-oblation in Christ and in Church."

With the additional perspective to intensify the permanent formation of priests, local Churches are asked to promote and coordinate the various spiritual and pastoral initiatives that are being

organised to highlight the function and service rendered by the clergy in the Church and in modern society. During this year a directory for confessors and spiritual directors will be published, along with a compilation of texts by Pope Benedict on the core issues of the life and mission of priests in modern times.

This is the first of a series of 6 articles by Ben Cerimele, parishioner at Our Lady of the Greenwood. Ben has a Masters of Theology from St. Meinrad.

The other articles can be found on the Our lady of the Greenwood website:

www.olgreenwood.org



Journey with Jesus: Where Will We Go?"

By Sister Mary Montgomery, SP Terre Haute Deanery

Journey with Jesus: Where Will We Go?" is a mission education program for pre-school through 8th grade produced by the Missionary Society of St. Columban. There is a school version (5 sessions) and a religious education version (1-2 sessions). There is a DVD for each grade level with a music CD for the younger children. These programs are available on loan for 21 days. The Terre Haute PAREs and I found the materials excellent. Some catechists used the materials with their class as a springboard for their part of the Catholic Social Teaching Fair which we hosted during Lent 2009 in our parishes.

Quotes from Scripture, Church documents and Catho-

lic Social Teaching form the basis of the program. Themes provided in the program are for K-8 are: Children of the World, Families Around the World, Building Communities of Peace, Respect for All God's People, Care for Creation, Respect for Different Faith Traditions, Standing on the Side of the Poor, Beyond Borders: Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees and Culture: Gift and Blessing.

www.columban.org/missioned;
Or 877-299-1920

Once a Month Religious Education

By Teresa Shaw, Holy Family Parish, New Albany Deanery

What's new and exciting? Religious Education at Holy Family, New Albany! For the past several years Children's Faith Formation (CFF) has been meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm. This past year had become a nightmare. There is so much traffic in a small space with Scouts, Athletics and CFF all meeting on the same night. Plus, with our Religious Education program growing we were running out of space in the building where CFF is held. The most urgent factor in opting for a change, though, was decidedly the attention span of the children in the program. They were coming in exhausted from a day at school, sports/dance, homework, and dinner (maybe). Teachers spent much of the instruction time trying to keep the class focused.

After much discussion with

the Pastor, the previous DRE, parents of the program and observation of another program in the area, we decided to think outside the box. We decided to meet one Saturday per month for 3 hours. We also decided to make this a year round program to reinforce the concept that we are to live our Gospel values ALL the time, not just during the school year.

We have structured the program like a mini VBS. Everyone meets in the church (including parents) for an opening prayer. Then they move to the classroom for instruction, then to the cafeteria for snack, then craft/service project time, back to the classroom for another lesson, and finally regroup (parents included) in the church for closing prayer. (Each month a different class handles the closing prayer and song, much the same as

the schools do.) Each month we choose a theme to focus on for all of our activities.

We began our program in August and so far things have gone very smoothly. There have been many benefits to the change, some expected, some not. The children are all very attentive and excited, wanting to come back every week! There is more fellowship among the children and teachers as we come together for snack and crafts. We have much less traffic and more space. The teachers have more time to plan a meaningful session and we have time for meaningful catechist meetings. Another benefit has been that I have all of the parents together at one time and can share important information easily. We are also conducting an ongoing service project which is made much easier by all coming together in one place.



***“Baptism is
our birth as
Christians,
our birth as
“other
Christs”.***



Advent: Reflecting on the Inside

By Tammy Stewart, St. Jude Parish, Indianapolis

The next issue of our newsletter is due in January, so this will be the only chance to give you a little food for thought on the Advent season. It is a reflection from a previously hectic Advent Season (most of us can probably relate).

Ok, so it is December 19th and I haven't wrapped a single gift yet. As much as I do not want to face the material aspect of the season, I guess it is time to do so. So tonight I will drag out the wrapping paper, tissue paper, bows, scissors, tape and tags and get down to business. But, in an effort to make this daunting chore more spiritual in nature, I started to think about wrapping paper, I mean in terms of people. What started me down this path is that I was thinking about

my love for shiny gold wrapping paper. Whenever anyone gives me a gift wrapped in gold paper, I am so excited. Truthfully, it doesn't even matter to me what is inside the package, I just love the wrappings!

But, then I started thinking about wrapping paper as the outside of people...the part you see and make judgments about. Have you ever been blinded by the outside beauty of wrapping paper that you have missed the core of what is inside? Sometimes what is

inside does not match up with our own morals and values and we need to kindly walk away. Sometimes we can be so excited about the beautiful wrappings that we never even look hard enough at the true gift inside and we take that gift for granted by our words and actions. Or sometimes we simply are not attracted to the outside wrappings and we completely miss out on the stunning gift on the inside.

We're on the web at
www.aparearchindy.com

APARE Action Plan for 2009-2010

Goal 5: (initiated work in 2006-2007, ongoing in 2009-2010)

Support excellent leadership, administration, and service skills in the parish catechetical leader.

Objective 5.1 Ensure the quality of the programs that have been the benchmark of APARE: Fall Day, Communications, Mentors, and Retreat.

Action Plan 5.1.1 Assure strong leadership for each APARE Program Committee.

Responsibility: Leadership Team (Discerning which deanery assumes responsibility one year in advance)

Time Frame: Ongoing

Action Plan 5.1.2 Assure that good communication occurs prior to each event, being sure to utilize the APARE website, OCE Notes, and other available communication tools.

Responsibility: Committees and Deanery Representatives

Time Frame: Ongoing

Action Plan 5.1.2a Communication must be reviewed by the leadership and / or executive committee one month prior to being sent out.

Responsibility: Committees, Executive Council, and Leadership

Time Frame: Ongoing

Action Plan 5.1.3 Assure that new PAREs are assigned Mentors.

5.1.3a Assure that all Mentors are active members of APARE.

5.1.3b Communicate value of Mentoring program to the membership.

Responsibility: Member-at-large and Leadership

Time Frame: Within 3 months of hire of new PARE

Objective 5.2 Develop a public relation plan for the APARE membership for the purpose of visibility, unity, motivation, challenge, energy, and communication of the mission.

Action Plan 5.2.1 Improve and update newsletter distribution by including the APARE website, i.e. email and link from OCE Notes. Encourage articles from members and establish a regular schedule of communication.

Responsibility: "PR" or Communications Committee

Time Frame: August 2009 and then Ongoing

Action Plan 5.2.2 Ensure that website, brochure, and all communications display APARE mission statement.

Responsibility: "PR" or Communications Committee

Time Frame: August 2009 and then Ongoing

Action Plan 5.2.3 Work with OCE to make the binder given to all new PAREs available to all members at APARE Fall Day.

Determine what we would like to included with this binder.

Responsibility: Leadership Team

Time Frame: Fall 2009

Objective 5.3 Support the ongoing formation of PAREs.

Action Plan 5.3.1 Provide information on educational opportunities and funding sources on APARE website.

Responsibility: Communication Committee

Time Frame: Ongoing

Objective 5.4 Support Executive Council.

Action Plan 5.4.1 Add "APARE Executive Council Day Away" to APARE Agenda.

Responsibility: Leadership

Time Frame: July 2009

Action Plan 5.4.2 Encourage all Executive Council Members to commit to a day of wellness as part of their call to uphold their Sabbath values.

Responsibility: Ad Hoc Committee of Executive Council

Time Frame: August 2009 and then Ongoing

Objective 5.5 Redefine role of APARE for Membership.

Action Plan 5.5.1 Use the Choosing on the Journey Planning Process (or parts of)

5.5.2 Review Constitution, mission statement, and vision statement

5.5.3 Support Deanery Representatives in their roles

5.5.4 Provide all members with methods to address concerns

5.5.5 Identify benefits to belonging to APARE for all PAREs, new and experienced.

5.5.6 Define responsibility of committees as it relates to mission and values of APARE.

Responsibility: Executive Council / Choosing Paths Committee

Time Frame:

Meet the New Echo Apprentices

By Lindsay Wilcox (2nd Year Echo Apprentice), Holy Name Parish, Indianapolis



Migrating the shortest distance, Nic Kovatch comes to St. Jude parish from South Bend, IN, named for the bend in the St. Joseph river. His most recent accomplishments include completion of his BA at Holy Cross College in May with a major in Theology and minor in Psychology, and running the Sunburst Marathon in June! He entered Echo because he believes it's where God is calling him, and he wants to pass on the faith in some way, shape, or form. When you meet him, feel free to give him a big hug! He's an affectionate, extraverted person, and will hug you right back!



Our next-nearest apprentice, coming to us from Waterloo, IA, a "great place to grow up, go to school, and eat plenty of corn," is Joe Pedersen, apprentice in the Office of Young Adult and College Campus ministry and at St. John the Evangelist. Joe also just graduated, completing his degree in Theology and Philosophy at Notre Dame. He chose Echo because he wanted to do service for the Church, and he's excited to be working with young adults!



Believe it or not, even though he hails from North Attleboro, MA, John Avila of St. Gabriel's is not our farthest traveler. He is, however, asking for the most trouble, bragging of his hometown that it is "15 minutes down the road from Gillette Stadium, the home of the greatest team in the NFL, the 3-time Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots!" While at Notre Dame for the last four years, John studied Political Science and played the tuba in the Notre Dame Marching Band. If you let him, he'll talk college football with you all day long!



Last, but certainly not least, coming all the way from Sacramento, CA, and featured wearing a home-made nose muff received as a gift to keep her nose from being a "perpetual ice cube" in Indiana winters, Natalie Helfrick joins the Archdiocese at Nativity parish. She was pre-med while studying Theology at Notre Dame, and she spent the last year as a campus ministry intern at ND, which confirmed her desire to live a life of service to the Church. She includes penguins, otters, and the color yellow on her list of favorite things, and claims she cannot live without hummus!

2009-2010 Officers

President: Theresa Roberts
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Vice-Pres: Alexa Sifuentes
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Officer at Large: Rosalie Hawthorne
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Treasurer: Teresa Keith
tkeith@stgabrielindy.org

Corresp. Secretary.: Lisa Whitaker
lisawhitaker@stjoehill.org

Recording Secretary: Jessica Gorman
cre@stjohnsosgood.org

2009-2010 Representatives

South – Becky Cope
North – Cindy Flaten
Hunt

Batesville – Jessica Gorman
New Albany – Bill Unruh
Seymour – Pam Kramer

West – Mary Joe Thomas-Day
East – Bev Hansberry & Sr. Joann

Terre Haute – Sr. Mary Montgomery
Bloomington – Janis Dopp
Tell City – Sr. Mary Emma Jochum

APARE Committee Assignments

Committee for 2010 Retreat

Committee for 2011 Retreat

Communications Committee

Elections Committee

Social Justice Committee

Fall Day 2010

North Deanery

Terre Haute

South Deanery

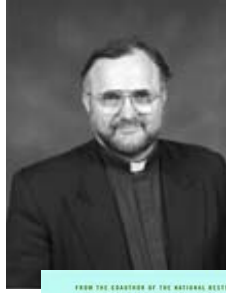
West Deanery

Batesville Deanery

??????

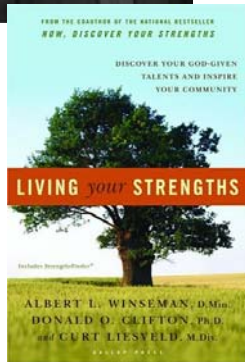
2010
APARE RETREAT

“Strengths & Spirituality”



January 27-29, 2010

at Fatima Retreat House



- ◆ Retreat will be facilitated by Fr. Jim Farrell. Fr. Jim is a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Director of Fatima Retreat House. He gives numerous retreats and workshops each year and we are happy to have him with us!
- ◆ God has given you a unique mix of talents; gifts to be used in your life, in your relationships with others, and in your ministry. Come, explore your strengths with us! You will discover how the talents God has given us are the ways He equips us to live as disciples who are filled with purpose.
- ◆ Hosted by the North Deanery

We're on the web at
www.aparearchindy.com

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