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Summa

Newsletter of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

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Vol. 25 Number 5
 December 2011



A NOTE FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

Last year my family's exchange of gifts was delayed a few days until I could make it home after all of the Christmas Masses and then Sunday Masses. We all gathered in the family room with the tree: my parents, my brother and his wife and their three children, and myself. We all dove into our stockings first before turning our attention to the presents under the tree.

Often very blessed, my brother and I receive a few small presents from my parents and a 'big' one. As the pile of wrapping paper grew, there were only a few presents left. There were two very large boxes, and one had my name on it. My first surprise was that the gifts were from my aunt from the family drawing. My second surprise was a large flatscreen television. She had over the years done something grand for many of my cousins, and this year it was my brother and mine's turn,

My third surprise was of a different sort. Because of the extraordinarily big 'big' gift from my aunt, my parents didn't get me one. It was something I had simply come to expect, and therefore, taken for granted.

I have always known that I have been very blessed in life, and I was reminded of that again last year. I was reminded of the meaning of gratitude — for everything, no matter how big or small. I was also reminded of generosity, and how undeserving we are of everything that we have received, and how much we often fail to appreciate it.

This Christmas we all have much to be thankful for, even if, for some, those blessings are rather hidden. May we take time to celebrate all of those gifts, particularly that of the Incarnation of the Son of God, He who would trade the wood of the crib for the wood of the cross out of love for us.

I hope you all have a blessed Christmas.

Fr. Matthew Oakland

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
 5:00pm Vigil Mass

Dec. 25 Christmas Day
 12:00am Midnight Mass
 9:30am Mass During the Day
 11:30am Mass During the Day

Prayer for Christmas

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Parish Leadership

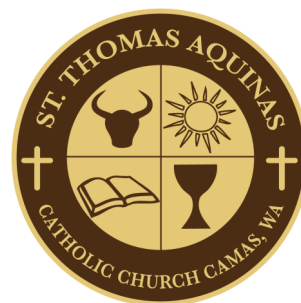
Priest Administrator: Fr. Matthew Oakland, 834-2126 (ext. 205)

FINANCE COUNCIL (ext. 255)
 Lori Lendvoyi, chair 210-6070
 Mark Cloutier 834-9597
 Bob Fehlen 335-0611
 Paul Jaskoviak 834-2172
 Greg Townsend 837-3807
 Ellen Varsek 834-3658
 Jeff White 891-7861

PASTORAL COUNCIL (ext. 254)
 Robert Garrett, Chair 450-4175
 Lori Lendvoyi 210-6070
 Darl Stuvik 971 570-3847
 John DeGroat 954-5194
 Carol McCaulley 833-1098
 Dave Kern 834-0775
 Laurie Midles 833-1098
 Lora Rollins 210-4200

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (ext. 259)
 Carol McCaulley, Chair 833-1098
 Jean Carpenter, Seniors 835-3601
 Anita Burkard, SVDP 833-8786
 Shawn MacPherson, KC's 921-6513
 Fran Hewitt, Guild 837-3422
 Anita Burkard, CDA 833-8786
 Debra Wilmott, Respect Life 828-1076
 Laurie Midles, Welcoming 833-1098
 Lisa Hix, Prayer Group 513-5731
 Linda Fehlen, Homebound 335-0611

LITURGY COMMITTEE
 William Warth, Ushers 833-2424
 Mary Talbitzer, Flowers 834-5470
 Doris Kuzis, Lectors 834-0491
 Christine Bolger, Extrord. Min. 834-7732
 Mark Powell, Servers & Acol. 835-8309
 Kristin Yoshimura, Music 834-1495



Prayer Chain: call Betty Manary 834-3643 or email: dandcheacock@gmail.com

Liturgy

New Hymnals

Our updated hymnals with the new translation have arrived. If you would like to donate a hymnal in memory of a loved one, please pick up a special pre-printed envelope in the back of the church, fill it out and return it in the collection basket or to the office. A donation of \$20 will put your name and the name of your loved one on a beautiful bookplate in the front of a hymnal. You can view the bookplate on the parish website. In addition you will be added to a permanent list of names that will be held in the choir loft and our musicians will pray for you weekly! Thank you in advance for your support of this project. If you donated a hymnal when the last edition was purchased in 2004, you are more than welcome to take that hymnal home with you as a keepsake. We will have them alphabetized and available for pick-up in the office

The Song

About forty years ago in a small church in a suburb of San Jose, California, I remember a beautiful

song about Our Lady. As one of our priests played the organ and the choir sang, my heart filled with joy. One day my mother complemented the priest. He came over to our house and played our piano for more than two hours.

Some time later a disturbed murderer went to him for Confession and stabbed him to death in the confessional. My family and the St. Mary's parishioners were devastated. In response to this painful event, the confessional was converted into a shrine. The shrine hon-

ors Fr. Tomei and his song "Virgin of Peace".

I never forgot him or the beautiful song. The song played in my heart and in my mind month after month, year after year. It played when I went away from the church and when I came back. It has stayed with me always.

About 20 years ago, I had the words copied and framed as a gift to my mother on Mother's Day. I kept a copy of the music and words for myself. Last summer I was working in the pro-life booth during Camas Days Festival and I met Annie and Emily, who sang in the choir. When I

told them about the music, they suggested I give a copy to Terese in the front office.

I did and she loved it. I thought I might have a chance to hear it sung by a choir after all these years. I did not hear anything for three or four months. A month ago, I was serving pancakes for the Knights of Columbus breakfast when the choir director came up to me and thanked me for the song. She told me that they were practicing. My heart leaped with joy. Then the man next to me, another choir member told me that they all loved "The Song", as I affectionately refer to it. I was invited to a choir rehearsal. I had my niece take pictures of the shrine and I emailed them to Terese. Just before Thanksgiving, Terese informed me that they would be singing it at Mass on Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and at the Grotto on Sun., Dec. 18 and again on Jan., 8



at 3:00pm here at St. Thomas at the Epiphany Concert. They say that grown men are not supposed to cry, but I wept when I got home.

It gets better. During the Thanksgiving break, I told my mother about all this. It turns out that the current pastor of St. Mary's is the son of my parents long time friends. She called him and told him that "Virgin of Peace" was going to be sung at St. Thomas in Camas, WA. He said that Dec. 8 was the 100th anniversary of the parish and that this story would be in their newsletter. How do you think I feel now?

It is my hope that this beautiful expression of love for Our Blessed Mother will be sung often at St. Thomas, but as of now, I don't know how I can ask for more.

Paul Smith

As a side note from the director, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning this piece and during our performances, we will be singing the second verse in French, Fr. Tomei's native language. Please pray for the parish of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception, the soul of Fr. Tomei and that of his killer.



Epiphany Concert

Sun., Jan. 8 3:00pm

The choir/schola will be performing a special concert on Epiphany Sunday, the day we celebrate the Wise Men arriving to pay homage to Jesus in the manger on Jan. 8 at 3:00pm in the church. Make your Christmas season last by joining us for our concert. In addition to the choral pieces, various vocal and instrumental soloists will be performing. Don't forget our sing-a-long at the end. A delicious reception will follow in the hall. All are invited!



Drew Swanson
834-2126 ext. 215
RCIA
Adult Confirmation



The First Crèche

Many of us remember from our own childhoods the family tradition of placing a nativity set in a prominent area of the house, often on the mantle above the fireplace. As kids, we would look at the beautiful scene as the family gathered before it for prayers before bedtime. On Christmas eve, those prayers took on a special significance as we beheld the utter poverty of the Holy Family in the stable and the joy we felt as we looked forward to Christmas morning. Many of us have continued this great family tradition for our own kids. Nativity sets play an important part in our celebration of Christ's birth and it would be difficult to imagine Christmas without them, but there was a time when they weren't around. The story of the origin of the Christmas creche rests with St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis had a deep devotion to the Christ Child and was constantly looking for new ways to make God's truths easily understandable to

others. In the year 1223, St. Francis was visiting the town of Greccio to celebrate Christmas. Greccio was a small town built on a mountainside overlooking a beautiful valley. St. Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage would be too small to hold the congregation for Midnight Mass. So he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up the altar. However, this Midnight Mass would be very special, unlike any other Midnight Mass.

St. Bonaventure (d. 1274) in his Life of St. Francis of Assisi tells the story best:

"It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem. A certain valiant and veracious soldier, John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of

this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles."

May we never grow tired or cold to the greatest truth of our faith; that God became man to save us from our sins. May the Babe of Bethlehem be loved and adored in the hearts of men and women now and forever. Let us be grateful to St. Francis of Assisi who through his love for Christ gave us a deeper love and appreciation for the Divine Babe of Bethlehem.



AQUINAS FEAST DAY, CRAB AND PRIME RIB DINNER

The date has been set for Jan. 28, 2012, for the annual Crab and Prime Rib dinner, and ticket price is only \$29 each. Please join us for a fun evening of 5 star food, music, dancing, the super popular Theme Dinner sign up, auction items, games, and wonderful parish fellowship. All proceeds will go to Parish Family Programs, primarily the summer Family Camp Tickets will go on sale in early January.

YOUTH GROUP

Drew Swanson
834-2126 ext. 215



Teen Adoration and a Movie

Come join us for an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in the Church. Our next night of Adoration is Fri., Jan. 6, 7:00-10:00pm. We will pray from 7:00-8:00pm before the Blessed Sacrament and then go to the Fireside Room for a movie. Pizza, popcorn, and soda will be provided, so come to what will be a great time! Bring a friend, we had a great turnout at December's get together.

Confirmation

Sunday Afternoon
1:30-3:00pm
Fireside

The Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for Sun., Mar. 11 and will be at Mt Angel. This is a one day retreat, we'll leave about 9:00am and return about 8:00pm. Save this date on your calendar.

WA State Knights of Columbus 2011-2012 Pro Life Poster Contest

Poster Contest Theme: "Human Life, a Gift from God"

As the students draw the poster, they should demonstrate the importance of "Human Life, a Gift from God." Below are some suggestions to consider. They should be creative and try to expand on the suggestions or develop their own ideas as it relates to "Human Life, a Gift from God." It is up to them.

- Some ideas can be orientated around the family, church and/or neighbors.
- What is so special about "Human Life?"
- What does the gift of "Human Life" mean to them?
- If "Human Life" is so precious, how should we treat it?
- How should we treat the elderly, handicapped or disabled?

Elementary Poster Contest Divisions

- Division 1 – Grades 1 & 2 Combined
- Division 2 – Grades 3 & 4 Combined
- Division 3 – Grades 5 & 6 Combined

Poster Contest Rules

- Minimum Poster Size is 11 in by 14 in
- Maximum Poster Size is 20 in by 24 in
- Council will supply posters to ensure children meet the size requirements
- Acceptable media: Crayons, colored pencils, ink, collage (pictures from photos, media from internet to demonstrate contest theme) and paint
- Media NOT Acceptable: Charcoal, chalk, glitter, pastels, and black pencils
- Posters **MUST** be clearly identified with the following five items on the BACK of the poster.
 - Student Full Name & Phone number
 - Grade Level
 - School Name
 - Council Number (Council Number 2999)
 - Grand Knight (Shawn MacPherson)
- Name **MUST NOT** appear anywhere on the front of the Poster

When and Where to Submit Posters

Please submit posters to Ed & Debbie Wilmott by Feb. 1, 2012. eydwilmott@yahoo.com or 828-1076. The winning entry will be forwarded to the State Council of the Knights of Columbus to be judged at the State Level.

Prizes at State Competition Level

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each division will receive \$100, \$75 and \$50 respectively.

Enter the K. of C. Pro Life Essay Contest 1st Prize \$100

As the students write their essay, they should demonstrate the importance of "Human Life, a Gift from God." Below are some suggestions to consider when they are writing their essay. They should be creative and try to expand on the suggestions or develop their own ideas as it relates to the central theme: "Human Life, a Gift from God." It is up to them.

- Some ideas can be orientated around the family, church and/or neighbors.
- What is so special about "Human Life?"
- What does the gift of "Human Life" mean to them?
- If "Human Life" is so precious, how should we treat it?
- How should we treat the elderly, handicapped or disabled?

Essay Contest Rules

- One division of Grades 7 & 8 Combined
- Legibly hand printed on college ruled paper, two sheets maximum
- Typewritten (computer or typewriter) with at least one-inch margins all around
- Smallest font is 10 point. No fancy fonts. Single or double spaced, one page only
- Essay entries must be clearly identified with the following five items on a separate sheet of paper stapled to the essay. Name **MUST NOT** appear anywhere on the essay sheets.

- Student Full Name & Phone #
- Grade Level, School Name
- Council Number (Council #2999)
- Grand Knight (Shawn MacPherson)

When and Where to Submit

Please submit essays to Ed & Debbie Wilmott by Feb. 1, 2012.

eydwilmott@yahoo.com or 828-1076. The winning entry will be forwarded to the State Council of the Knights of Columbus to be judged at the State Level.

Prizes at State Competition Level 1st place receives \$100, 2nd place receives \$75, and 3rd place receives \$50.

Parish Life



Apostolate Spotlight!

Aquinas Seniors

The Aquinas Seniors are the older (more mature) men and women of the parish, some are retired and some are just tired!! They meet at noon on the fourth Monday of each month in the Fireside Room. You can come early and visit or help set up for our potluck lunch. St. Thomas parish has the best cooks in Camas and Washougal. Some of the people that come don't like to cook so they bring salad or fruit, or chicken from one of the local store delis. We always have a good time and when we finish eating, we play Pokino which is like Bingo, so be sure and bring pennies. (It's very easy to catch on to how the game works.) We have a lot of laughs while we play.

Once in a while we have a speaker that speaks on a topic of interest to people in our age group (50 years and onward.) We met on Dec. 15 in the Fireside Room; a day and date Fr. Oakland could join us for lunch.

If you have questions, or need a ride call Jean, 834-3601. We always like to meet and welcome new people. Don't hesitate to join us. See you Mon., Jan. 23.



Apostolic Works Foundation

Perfect end of the year gift to help pro-life activities (like the January bus to the state capital), our priests, and the Knights of Columbus.

All donations to the Apostolic Works Foundation are fully deductible--just make sure your check (and envelope if mailed) are dated before December 31st. The AWF exists because the Knights of Columbus is considered a fraternal organization, and most donations directly to the Knights are, by law, not tax deductible.

The Apostolic Works Foundation is a registered 501 (c) 3 under the IR code. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Our federal tax ID #20-8199661. President, David Casteel, Treasurer, John Sentesy, Director, Terry McCarty. Please feel free to hand your donation to--or contact any director.

Contact us by e-mail at apostolicworksfoundation@comcast.net, or by mail at 26308 NE 34th St, Camas, WA 98607.

Knights Corner

Knight of the Month

September: Gary Chesnutis
October: Chris Ebert
November: Dave Casteel

Family of the Month

September: Irv St. Germain October: Scott Parker
November: George Zeleznick November was busy month for Council 2999.

The Harvest Dinner was a great success and we thank Kelly Kashas and the St. Elizabeth Apostolate for teaming up with us this year. The turkey legs were a big hit and we hear the food and appointments were excellent. We served over 350 people and hope to do even more next year. Thanks to the Aquinas Guild for their years of effort into making the Harvest Dinner such a mainstay for our parish and community. We had some big shoes to fill!

The Thanksgiving Meal program was also a great event for our council, parish and community. Dozens of volunteers showed up to deliver meals to the elderly and the less fortunate and the Knights showed up in force to cook and prepare the meals. Thank you to all who participated.

We brought back the Hay Ride on Dec. 17 after the 5:00pm Mass. A family event with chili, cookies and hot chocolate served in the Hall. We come to the end of a great 2011 for our Council.

Looking forward to more in 2012.

Grand Knight

Shawn MacPherson, Council 2999

March for Life Olympia Bus Trip

In solemn remembrance of Roe v. Wade we will again travel by bus to the Washington State Capital in Olympia on Tue., Jan. 17, 2012. The bus boards at St. Thomas at 6:15am and leaves at 6:30am sharp! Bring home made signs or use those provided.

Dress warm! The Mass for Life at St. Martin Pavilion in Lacey with Archbishop J. Peter Sartain is at 9:30am,

followed by a bus shuttle to the Capital for noon presentations for one hour. Lunch will be provided back in Lacey by the Knights of Columbus (free will offerings accepted) or bring a sack lunch. Those attending should arrive back in Camas at about 5:00pm. The bus trip is free! Call 834-2126, ext. 260 to reserve your seat. Sponsored by the parish and the Knights of Columbus.



Children's Program
Kim Steinke
834-2126, ext. 207
kim@st-thomascamas.org

Faith Formation

There are no Faith Formation classes or Sacramental Prep classes the next 2 weeks due to the Christmas season, but here is something to think about regarding the traditional seasonal song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas". It is truly a blessed time as we celebrate Holy Days, Feast Days & Saint Days.

- Day 1—The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas, (Obligatory Mass attendance & special time with family to celebrate the birth of our Savior!)
- Day 2—The Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr
- Day 3—Feast of St. John the Apostle
- Day 4—Feast of the Holy Innocents
- Day 5—St. Thomas Beckett
- Day 6—Feast of the Holy Family
- Day 7—St. Sylvester I
- Day 8—Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, (Obligatory Mass attendance)
- Day 9—St. Basil the Great
- Day 10—St. Genevieve
- Day 11—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Day 12—St. John Neumann

The Epiphany of Our Lord is Jan. 6 and if this date does not fall on a Sunday, in our church we traditionally move our celebration to the Sunday nearest to Jan. 6, this year being Jan. 8. In addition to Mass attendance, the choir/schola of St. Thomas Aquinas Church will perform a concert at 3:00pm on Jan. 8.

The Baptism of Our Lord is celebrated on the following Sunday, Jan. 15.

Faith Formation classes and Sacramental Prep classes resume on Jan. 4 and to celebrate Epiphany, we will provide pizza for the students in the classrooms.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

News from our Mission

<http://www.ourladystarofthesea.org> starofthesea@saw.net

Summa Articles: Meghan Mac-Rhyann @ MomLovesLacey@gorge.net



Why is January 1 a Holy Day of Obligation?

January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, which commemorates the divine motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This feast has a very long history, even though the day we celebrate it has been all over the calendar. Still, it's important enough to the Church to declare it a solemnity - which is higher than an ordinary feast day - so it's not one to miss for sure! FYI: There are only 17 solemnities each year; 10 are Holy Days of Obligation and, in America, only six have been retained as celebrations separate from Sundays (the rest of the Universal Church's Holy Days have been moved to the Sunday closest to them). Remember that ALL Sundays are still **primary** Holy Days of Obligation.

As for this feast, it was originally celebrated in Rome well before the fifth century on the octave day of Christmas (Jan. 1), as the Christian opposition for the pagan feast on the same day that honored the "god" Janus.

Although the Blessed Virgin Mary is the primary focus for this day, the octave of Christmas has other important considerations too. It was also the day in which the Infant Jesus was circumcised, the day in which he became a Jew. It was also the day in which the "first blood" was shed for our salvation. January 1 is also tied to the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus as this was the day He was given the name Jesus, actually Yeshua, as ordered by God Himself. This name is tied to various roots that mean 'Yahweh is salvation' or 'God Saves'. Lastly, January 1 is also World Day of Peace as established by Pope Paul VI in 1968.

In 1974, when Pope Paul VI officially restored the day of this feast in

his encyclical 'Marialis Cultus,' he explained: "This celebration, assigned to Jan. 1 in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the Holy Mother... through whom we were found worthy... to receive the Author of life. It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewed adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace... and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace."

The important message and relevance of this day for us is stated in the Opening Prayer for the Mass: That we may "experience the intercession of her through whom we have received the Author of life." We set aside this day to honor the virgin whom the Council of Ephesus, in 431, called "Theotokos", meaning "God bearer".

Explaining Mary's place in salvation, the Church states that "...Second Person of the Trinity, was born of her according to the flesh and what was born of her was the humanity to which the Word is united hypostatically. Rightly, therefore, the Fathers see Mary not merely as passively engaged by God, but as freely cooperating in the work of man's salvation through faith and obedience" (Lumen Gentium, nos. 53 and 56).

This is why we come— first to remember the Blessed Virgin Mary's part in salvation, but also to awaken in ourselves a reminder that it is our responsibility to **follow her example** and "freely cooperate... through faith and obedience."

Outreach

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas,

Thank you, again, for your overwhelming generosity during our 'Giving Tree' food and gift drive at Christmas.

Because of your abundant support, we were able to help over 20 families in the local community have a Christmas far beyond what they would have had without our help. Even though the number of families helped this year was fewer than past years, several of those families were very large with 10 to 12 members per family. As in years past, when many of these families arrive to pick up their food and gifts, they are astounded by what they receive and are unable to find words to express their gratitude.

We cannot thank you enough for your generous support year after year of this very important drive to help people in our community. You, the parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas, certainly exemplify the love of Jesus Christ and the true meaning of charity.

Thank you again for your support of our many activities throughout the year, and especially at Christmas.

*God Bless You ALL!
The Saint Thomas Aquinas Conference
of the St. Vincent de Paul Society*



St. Vincent de Paul Funding

Starting in January we are going to start collecting donations for St. Vincent de Paul. Donations can always be made directly to SVDP any time of the month. However, because this is an important and vital part of our social outreach to support the poor and those in need, we are also going to start having a special collection every 3rd Sunday of the month. On those weekends, there will be ushers at the doors with baskets and signs that say St. Vincent de Paul.

In the beginning of the 17th century Vincent de Paul started to care for the poor, including the prisoners and slaves in the galleys, the babies and children who were abandoned in the streets, those moving to the city from the countryside for lack of food, anyone who came to his door. It is from him that the word for love, charity, began to be applied to those acts of mercy for those in need. Vincent de Paul also gathered around him others to help in this daunting task.

The task today is no less daunting. The poor do not simply exist in third world countries. They exist in our community, and even in our church, people who struggle to make ends meet, to keep food on the table, the heat on, whatever it might be.

Starting in January, donations to St. Vincent de Paul will only be accepted through this special collection. The Human Relations Fund will soon disappear, though it will take some time to disappear from the envelopes. Please remember the 3rd Sunday of the month as SVDP weekend, and always remember them and their great work in your prayers.

Update from Ghana

For once, I can send you message of good news. The stress, disillusionment and what have you are over. We can sing and talk about joyful things in life as we approach the ADVENT SEASON. At long last, I have cleared all the donated items from the container and are in my possession. The distribution of the items are underway. Every thing came intact and not a pin moved from its position. Once again I say thanks, very, very much. The car is at the National Catholic Secretariat waiting for registration and licensing. Hopefully the process will be completed this week

Peace and Joy!

Another Creative Giving Option

Only a small window of time remains to do a Charitable IRA rollover contribution to St. Thomas Aquinas!

Among the many items in the Tax Relief Act signed in 2010 is a provision that will remain in place only until the end of 2011 (just one more month). It allows charitable donations up to \$100,000 from IRAs *without income tax* on the gifted funds. To qualify you must be over age 70 ½ and a portion of this gift can qualify as your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. Since the amount donated is not taxed for income tax, it is also not allowed as a charitable deduction, as the income tax saved is greater than the charitable deduction. If you wish to consider this type of gift prior to the end of the year, please seek

counsel from your financial or tax adviser for all of the requirements of this provision and to ensure this strategy properly fits your overall personal financial situation. You may contact Lorrie, 834-2126 ext. 208 if your financial planner requires any organization information. Thank you for considering this mutually beneficial contribution!