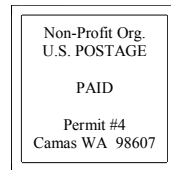


ST THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH
324 NE OAK ST
CAMAS WA 98607-1439

Change Service Requested



Summa

Newsletter of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

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St. Vincent de Paul, p. 2
Bringing Christ's Love to Adult
Care, p. 3

Vol. 25 Number 6
January 2012

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Last week I urged you to act on the matter of the legislation that is currently before our legislature which would legalize same sex marriage. Recently, Archbishop Sartain did just that, speaking before the committee which must first approve the legislation. As I have said, the vote is very close, and this is a very pressing issue, not just for our faith, but also for the common good of our society. Please raise your voice and contact your legislators. Here is what our Shepherd told the senators:

Testimony of Archbishop J. Peter Sartain
SB-6239 – Redefining Marriage
January 23, 2012

Senator Pridemore and members of the Committee, my name is J. Peter Sartain. I am the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Seattle and president of the Washington State Catholic Conference, which represents the Catholic Bishops of Washington State on issues of public policy. Thank you for allowing me to offer this testimony. Today the Catholic Conference respectfully urges you to oppose the passage of SB 6239.

I come before you this morning as a pastor. I have been a priest for almost 34 years, and in those years I have ministered to people from a wide range of backgrounds, ways of life and cultures. Our Church teaches that all persons are loved by God and have God-given dignity. We all recognize that the bill before this committee has elicited strong emotions on both sides. I have tried my best to treat all with respect, compassion, and sensitivity, as my Church teaches and expects all Catholics to do. My brother bishops and I hope that our voice contributes significantly to the discussion of a matter that has serious long-range implications for our state and society at large.

Our opposition to SB 6239 is based on the grave challenge this legislation poses to the common good. By attempting to redefine marriage, it ignores the origin, purpose and value of marriage to individuals, families and society. We recognize that not everyone holds our faith and beliefs, but the universal principles that form the basis for our position are readily discernible by all people. They transcend any particular society, government, or religious community; in fact, they are built into human life itself. The natural structure of human sexuality orders the transmission of human life through man and woman. Because only the union of a man and woman can generate new life, no other human relationship is its equivalent.

Because of its essential and irreplaceable contribution to the common good, marriage is correctly defined by the state as the union of a man and a woman as husband and wife. The state has long recognized the societal benefit of promoting strong families, because they establish a framework for healthy, permanent and faithful male-female relationships and thus establish the best conditions for rearing children; moreover, strong families help ensure a strong, stable civic community. The state has thus long understood that it has a compelling interest in recognizing and supporting these mothers and fathers through a distinct category of laws. Were the definition of marriage to change, there would be no special laws to support and recognize the

(continued on page 5)

Parish Leadership

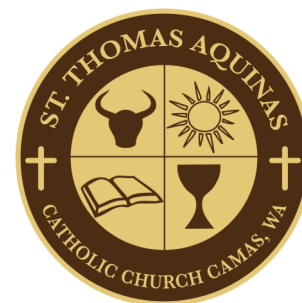
Priest Administrator: Fr. Matthew Oakland, 834-2126 (ext. 205)

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
 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
 Kelly Kashas, SEA 834-3096

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

“Music Notes” Epiphany Concert

The music program is pleased to have come to the end of the Christmas season with much joy and success. After a very busy Advent and Christmas, things were brought to a close with the annual Epiphany concert. The show was very well attended and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your support. The concert was followed by a delicious buffet dinner hosted by Lisa Hix and her daughter Jennifer. Lisa and Jennifer certainly have a gift for providing fabulous hospitality!



Hymnal project

The new hymnals arrived just before Advent. It is always exciting to open a new book and enjoy its pristine condition and unique smell. With a parish as faithful and active as ours, it won't take long for the books to become well-loved and well-worn, which is a good thing. It was necessary for us to replace our hymnals because of the new translation of the Roman Missal. The front portion of the book contains the order of Mass and therefore needed to be updated. If you would like to sponsor a hymnal in honor of a loved one, there are still envelopes in the back of the church you can use. Please fill them out, put your donation inside and either return it in the Sunday collection basket or bring it to the office. If you sponsored an older edition of the hymnal and would like to keep it at home as a memento, they are available for pick-up in the office.

New Membership in the Choir

If you have ever considered joining the adult choir, schola cantorum or have children who would like to join the children's choir, Vox Clara, now is a great time to come on board. We have begun our journey through a small portion of Ordinary time before we enter Lent. There are so many opportunities to learn the beautiful music of the church, old and new, for the upcoming

holy seasons. Please contact the director, Kristin Yoshimura, for more information. Orchestral instruments are also welcome! Email kristin@stthomascamas.org or call 834-2126, ext. 212 to find out how you can join our parish's musical family.

Readied To Donate Organs, 21-Year-Old Emerges From Coma

Sam Schmid, an Arizona college student believed to be brain dead and poised to be an organ donor, miraculously recovered just hours before doctors were considering taking him off life support. Schmid, a junior and business major at the University of Arizona, was critically wounded in an Oct. 19 five-car accident in Tucson.

The 21-year-old's brain injuries were so severe that the local hospital could not treat him. He was airlifted to the Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Phoenix, where specialists performed surgery for a life-threatening aneurysm.

As hospital officials began palliative care and broached the subject of organ donation with his family, Schmid began to respond, holding up two fingers on command. (He) is walking with the aid of a walker, and his speech, although slow, has improved. Doctors say he will likely have a complete recovery...

Organ donations are often made when a person is declared "brain dead" which is not true death. Certain organs cannot be harvested after actual death.

The CCC # 2258 states "Human Life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. **God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning to its end:** no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right to directly destroy an innocent human being."

The CCC # 2279 states "Even if death is thought imminent, the ordinary care owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted..." Palliative care is a special form of disinterested charity. As such it should be encouraged."

Submitted by Debra Wilmott

Stewardship of Time

Perhaps the most important aspect of Stewardship, especially in today's world, is the proper management of the gift of time. Time is more fleeting than any talent and more precious than any treasure. It is ironic to think that technology has created many time-saving devices and yet we seem to have less and less time. Calendars seem to fill without us even being aware of whether we are making the best use of our time. God gives us 24 hours each day - how much of that time do we spend with Him and with one another.

As we embark on our pariah Stewardship journey we must realize that all good things come from God and we are what we are because of Him.

While individual prayer is the simplest form of praise to the Lord, Stewardship of Time asks for a commitment of allotting time for prayer. The intimacy of prayer must be captured at a dedicated, quiet time during the day. Just as we would make any other appointment, make an appointment with the Lord to pray. How we pray is a personal choice with many variations. Our commitment to the Stewardship of Time calls us to daily prayer and spiritual exercises to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and one another.

Stewardship of Time

- Daily Mass and adoration
- Bible Study and Reflection
- Recitation of the Rosary
- Presence at Parish events
- Listen to Religious Music and Programs on Radio/ TV
- Morning, Midday, Evening and Night Prayers (Liturgy of the Hours)
- Retreats and Days of Recollection
- Spiritual Direction
- Reading Religious Articles and Books
- Adult Religious Education Programs
- Theology Classes and Seminars
- Quality Time for Family and Friends
- Ample Time for Rest and Recreation

Outreach

Roe vs Wade

On the anniversary of Roe vs Wade, let us call to mind the words of Richard John Neuhaus, committing ourselves anew to building a civilization of love.

"We shall not weary, we shall not rest, until every unborn child is protected in law and welcomed in life. We shall not weary, we shall not rest, until all the elderly who have run life's course are protected against despair and abandonment, protected by the rule of law and the bonds of love. We shall not weary, we shall not rest, until every young woman is given the help she needs to recognize the problem of pregnancy as the gift of life. We shall not weary, we shall not rest, as we stand guard at the entrance gates and the exit gates of life, and at every step along way of life, bearing witness in word and deed to the dignity of the human person—of every human person.

Against the encroaching shadows of the culture of death, against forces commanding immense power and wealth, against the perverse doctrine that a woman's dignity depends upon her right to destroy her child, against what St. Paul calls the principalities and powers of the present time, **we renew our resolve that we shall not weary, we shall not rest, until the culture of life is reflected in the rule of law and lived in the law of love.**"

result, even those who have requested nutrition and hydration and in their health directives are having this ordinary care withheld and as a result dying within 7 to 10 days.

We have an aging population and the need for residential care is rising every day. There are many very profitable adult care homes emerging. Unfortunately, these homes are normally run for profit and, due to the very limited monthly payments available from government programs for those with economic need, these existing homes are not readily available to those with lower incomes. For those who can't afford to private pay, there are few options and frequently they end up in the long-term care sections of skilled nursing homes where they remain two or three to a room -- warehoused until they die.

Help Make the Difference

Please help make a difference. Our elderly, veterans, disabled, and terminally ill need a better place. We need your support to provide that place. Please prayerfully consider how the Good Shepherd is calling you to respond. We need your financial support. We need loving volunteers. We need your prayer. You can send donations to us at P.O. Box 990, Washougal, WA 98671. You can learn more about Human Dignity and make donations on line at our website www.centerforhumandignity.com. If you have questions, or would like to talk more about how you are being called to help, please call Carol McCaulley, O.C.D.S., 606-3620. God Bless!

Bringing Christ's Love to Adult Care

Following the example of Christ, Human Dignity Foundation is committed to responding to the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death with a special focus on the elderly, veterans, disabled, and terminally ill. To that end, our focus is on providing very different kinds of loving residential care facilities physically designed to reflect the dignity of each resident and staffed to ensure that the care received is grounded in Christ's love for each resident. We are now preparing to open Good Shepherd Manor, an Adult Care Home, as our first step in providing this loving care with Christ at its foundation.

Good Shepherd Manor

Good Shepherd Manor is conveniently located near shopping and transportation on 1.45 acres on Shepherd Road. With full access to the Washougal River, its gardenlike grounds will provide a peaceful setting for our residents. Work is now underway to remodel and expand the existing house on the property to provide a quality physical environment designed to reflect each residents dignity. You can watch our progress on our website: www.GoodShepherdManor.com. Registered Nurse, Linda McPike, O.C.D.S., will manage the care provided at this home. All caregivers will be carefully screened and, with the help of Servants of the Good Shepherd (a secular religious organization dedicated to bringing Christ's love to our Elderly, Veterans, Disabled, and Terminally Ill formerly known as the JPII Volunteers for Life), residents will receive a different kind of loving, Christ centered, care.

The Need

We have all visited a nursing home and felt that sinking feeling. We know in our hearts that there must be something better. Frequently two or three residents share a room, with nothing but a curtain between them. While one resident sits on a commode, the other resident in the room has guests. All too often there are long delays in responding to call lights. Many find it easier to clean a resident up when it is convenient than to take the time to stop, get them into the restroom and back out again. But to the resident, having an "accident" is distressing.

Now our society is putting pressure on our elderly, disabled and terminally ill to die sooner rather than later. While this is usually done with the expressed intention of eliminating suffering, this new form of mercy killing violates the fundamentals of both Christian belief and natural law. In fact, since Medicaid will pay for "hospice" this is too often presented as the only option when one is diagnosed as nearing death. However, this "hospice" care while allowing for the placement of a catheter to remove fluids from the body often does not provide for the provision of nutrition and/or hydration through any artificial means. As a

GOOD SHEPHERD MANOR
1493 Shepherd Rd., Washougal



Parish Life

Apostolic Works Foundation

The AWF is proud to support the annual Right to Life Rally in Olympia by making a donation to the parish to cover the parishes' cost of the bus expenses.

All donations (cash, securities, or real property) to the Apostolic Works Foundation are fully deductible. 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. David Casteel, President, John Sentesy Treasurer, Terry McCarty, director; please feel free to contact any director for more information.



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

Praise the Lord!

This past month, we've had 69 prayer requests. Many have been answered in very positive ways. Several jobs have been obtained, and many surgeries were very successful. Praise the Lord!!

One of the most wonderful answers to prayer was in regard to a father, who needed job security and the ability to take care of his young daughter on the weekends. He is a truck driver, and many were being laid off, so he expected the inevitable layoff to come at any time. His mom put him on the prayer chain, and his immediate boss, who knew of his special needs, was promoted to general manager. He called the man in, and assured him of his job and the special hours he needed off. Praise the Lord !!

Also one person was going to court to face a difficult situation related to a divorce. The judge was extremely helpful in assessing the situation which resulted in a \$500 per month raise in pay for them. God is so good!

CDA

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strive to embrace the principal of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, the advancement of human rights, and human dignity for all. Women in the parish 18 years and older who are interested in this wonderful national organization of Catholic women are welcome to join us at our next business meeting in February.

In December, we collected money from members to help Father Justus in Uganda with his work there. In January, we began our plans for the Irish Dinner on Sat., Mar. 17th which we co-sponsor with the Knights of Columbus. Each month, we collect items to donate to our local veterans in need.

Please plan to join us at our next business meeting on Feb. 6, 6:30pm. We will meet in the Fireside Room and begin with the Rosary. During the February meeting we will continue with our Irish Dinner planning. Please call Anita, 833-8786 with questions.

KC Corner

December -Knight of the Month

Tom McCaulley

Family of the Month

Bud and Polly Brown

Second Annual KC Super Bowl Breakfast! Feb. 5

Get ready for the Big Game with the Knights! This was a lot of fun last year with tons of prizes. The Knights will be geared out with their NFL jerseys and serving up your choice of regular or blueberry pancakes, link sausage, our famous scrambled eggs and fruit. Come enjoy the fun on Super Bowl Sunday!



Military Chaplain Scholarship Program

The primary purpose of the

Fourth Degree of The Knights of Columbus is to instill and advance patriotism. One of our major goals for this year is to support The Military Chaplain Scholarship Program.

The Archdiocese of Military Services, which supplies Catholic chaplains to US forces around the world, estimates that it needs 800 priests to serve all the Catholic men and women in uniform today, but they only have 280. Many Knights are veterans who served in the military. They appreciated having a Catholic chaplain available, and would like to see those currently serving similarly supported. Especially when in combat, when you don't know whether each breath will be your last, spiritual guidance is high on your list of priorities.

The Knights of Columbus have established a new scholarship program, led by the Fourth Degree, to help fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains. The AMS has a co-sponsorship program in which a seminarian's diocese and the AMS split the cost for his five year education. In return the candidate agrees that, following ordination and three years of service at a parish, he will commit to serve as a military chaplain for a minimum of three years. The scholarship program will contribute one million dollars to the AMS at a rate of \$ 200,000 per year for the next five years, to help the AMS support current and new seminarians.

If you would like to make a donation to this worthy cause, please use the following procedure:

Make checks payable to the "Knights of Columbus." In the memo section please write "Military Scholarship" Mail checks to: Thomas McCaulley Comptroller, 1470 N 20th St., Washougal, WA, 98671-8278. Donation Receipt is available upon request.

Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Carmen M. Galderisi
Faithful Navigator

Children's Program

Kim Steinke
834-2126, ext. 207
kim@st-thomascamas.org

Inclement Weather

As a reminder to our faith formation & sacramental prep families, if the Camas School District cancels school in the event of bad weather we will cancel both the afternoon and evening sessions as well.

If bad weather happens upon us later that day, parish staff will determine whether to cancel or not. If we cancel, I will leave a message on my voicemail stating the cancellation. Parish families live in a widespread area of Camas/Washougal so please determine if it is safe for you to drive to classes. If the weather is bad at your house, be safe and stay home.

Food and Drink

Please be sure to give your children something to eat before they come to class. Some of them have stated "I haven't eaten all day...". Whether this is true or not, please make sure they have something to eat.

It is helpful if you give them a filled water bottle to take with them to class as well.

Faith Formation Schedule

Jan. 18, 25
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28
Apr. 11, 18, 25

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sat., May 5, either at a 10:00am Mass or a 1:00pm Mass.



Please keep these children in your prayers in the upcoming weeks of preparation.

A Note from the Pastor cont. from page 1

irreplaceable contribution that these married couples make to society and to the common good by bringing to life the next generation.

In conclusion, as the foundation of the family, marriage between a man and a woman is the basic unit of society, a personal relationship with public significance. Marriage makes a contribution to the common good of society unlike any other relationship, through the procreation, rearing and education of children. Moreover, the union of a man and woman in marriage lived well over a lifetime is an incomparable good for husbands and wives, their children and extended families, civic communities and all of society. Marriage is a vocation and a gift to be cherished, supported, upheld, and protected.

I urge you to uphold the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Thank you.

Governor Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002
360-902-4111

To find your legislators, go to the Washington State Legislature Website, and click the tab that says "Find My District" [<http://www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx>]

If you live in Camas or the western part of Washougal, you are in District 18, and your senator and representatives are:

Sen. Joseph Zarelli
204 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40418
Olympia, WA 98504-0418
360-786-7634

Rep. Ann Rivers
469 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
360-786-7850

Rep. Ed Orcutt
408 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
360-786-7812

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.

Save the Date!

Mardi Gras Dinner
Tue., Feb. 21

Hall