

St Paul Catholic Church

PARISH NEWSLETTER

May 2012



PARISH PROFILE Dave Rospert

Dave Rospert's background may have been in nuclear power, but his future will include giving homilies and singing chants

Dave is one of 19 men in the Toledo Diocese who are studying to become permanent deacons. In September, he will begin the last year of the five-year program that has given him an entirely new appreciation for a faith he was born into.

"I was a once-a-week Catholic. I put in my hour (at Mass) and thought that was good," said Dave. "It's amazing how much I've learned. It's such a beautiful faith."

The idea of joining the diaconate was a gradual process, Dave said. Then, one turning point came about 10 years ago, when his wife, Robyn, decided to convert from Lutheran to Catholic and joined RCIA. She would come home from her classes with tons of questions for her husband.

"I had trouble answering a lot of them," Dave acknowledged. "I started looking at myself, at what I knew and what I didn't know."

Dave started to read more, to become more involved in church life and various ministries, to ask questions about the diaconate, and to pray for guidance. The nudging and stirring he felt within was placed in God's hands, he said.

"I didn't just sit down and say that I want to be a deacon. In the back of my mind, I just felt this calling," he said. "I thought, 'I'll put it in God's hands.' That still works today. I still pray that this is where God wants me. I'll do my part - all the homework - and if this is where He wants me, it's up to Him."

The diaconate program is an intense one, covering a broad range of coursework organized by each diocese. There currently are 183 permanent deacons in the Toledo Diocese.

The first year, appropriately named Inquiry, is to determine if a man truly wants to begin this journey. There are various criteria in this phase, including paperwork and interviews, plus



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the support of a man's wife if he is married.

The remaining years are devoted to study. The Aspirancy year introduces the men to theology and a deeper knowledge of a deacon's ministry. There are five monthly sessions that begin Friday evening and end Saturday afternoon. The three remaining years of Candidacy - which Dave is now completing - involve eight monthly sessions that last an entire weekend. Once that is completed, a man is ordained a deacon. He then must complete 36 hours of post-ordination formation. Dave attends classes at the Pine Retreat Center in Fremont.

"I knew after talking to Jim Reichert that there was a lot that went into the program. I knew I had to put time into it, but I didn't realize it would be that much time.

"I've worked at power plants my whole life, so this coursework is a challenge for me," Dave said.

"They give us enough homework to last all month. February was a very busy month for us. We had a six-page paper to write and a final exam that ended up being 30 typed pages. It was a pretty intense exam."

Dave admitted he doesn't type too well. He said he writes his papers out longhand and his daughter, Brittany, 23, types them for him. Robyn keeps him on track as well, letting him study quietly in his basement niche, once riling him awake when "she caught me napping with a book over my forehead."

The Rosperts also have a son, Justin, 26, at home, and a married daughter, Nicole, 25, in Columbus. All the children and Dave himself are St. Paul High alumni.

"We (as deacons) have a unique role, being married and ordained," said Dave. "We know the struggles of raising a family, of sending kids to a Catholic school, the struggles between work life and family life. I think it's important that people see that."

Dave and Robyn have had their share of challenges.

They were married in 1984, while Dave was on Christmas leave from the U.S. Navy. His six-year tour included four years on a submarine, three moves out of state and an intense training in the nuclear power program, which he said was of the most difficult for enlisted men. Two of his children were born while he was at sea.

More recently, the Rosperts struggled with Robyn's diabetes and her eventual need for a pancreas transplant. They were notified several times to prepare for surgery, that a pancreas was available, only to have their hopes deflated because of something that had gone wrong. After two years on the waiting list, Robyn received a pancreas in December 2010.

"I remember asking God, 'Is this ever going to happen?' I know we say it's not our time, but God's time, but it's hard."

As it turned out, Robyn's surgery was "perfect," Dave said. "She is 100 percent off insulin."

In the coming year, Dave said he looks forward to his final preparation to become a deacon. The candidates will be practicing how to perform marriages and baptisms, two of the sacraments deacons are allowed to perform. They may also officiate at funerals.

The candidates have started some practice on homilies and chanting, two areas Dave said he needs to work on.

"I'm not a public speaker so I struggle a little bit on homilies," he said, adding with a laugh, "On chanting, I had to repeat mine the most of all the 19, if that tells you anything. They clapped for me when I was done. I don't know if they felt sorry for me or what."

Dave will be ordained in May 2013. He hopes to minister at St. Paul, but that is not guaranteed since deacons are assigned by the bishop. Deacons are not paid, so most men continue to work their regular jobs. Dave is employed by KBI, the former Delphi plant in Sandusky.

Any man who may be thinking about the diaconate program should check out the information at the diocese's website at www.vtoledodiocese.org, and also talk to priests and other deacons, Dave suggested. Prayer also is vital, he added, since many men may feel unworthy. There's a saying Dave likes for those times: "God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies those he calls."



These six weeks of the Easter season are filled with lots of wonderful celebrations! Congratulations to all those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Saturday, April 28th. And this weekend our second graders will be making their First Holy Communion. What special days these are for all these young people. I hope that they

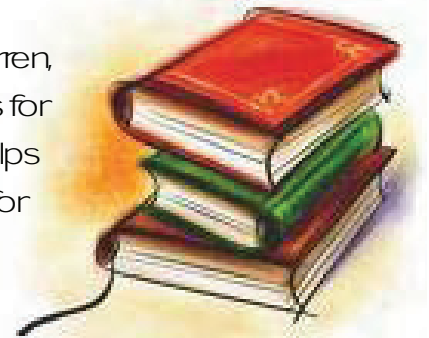
will always stay close to the church and find special strength and help from Jesus present in the Sacraments of our Church.

It is still not too late for you to participate in the Parish Survey that we have been conducting in our parish at all our weekend liturgies April 15, 22 and 29th. For several years we have discussed the possibility of having a parish survey to find out the thinking of our people on parish life. We want to know how we can better serve you and one another. There are surely a lot of wonderful things happening in our parish at the present time, but we also know that we can always do better. Your response to this three part parish survey will help us to know and accomplish that. Although we asked parishioners to fill out this survey the past three weekends in church during Mass, it is also available to everyone on our website, www.stpaulchurch.org. This survey is for everyone in our parish, fourteen years of age or older. We realize that many of our parishioners do not come to Mass on a regular basis and may not have seen this survey. So if you have not already filled out this survey at Mass, please take a few minutes now and go to our website and fill out the survey and send it back to us. We want to hear from you. We want you to be very truthful and honest in your evaluations and suggestions. We want to know what you think and believe about our parish and church. Your responses will help us in our planning for the future. We will let you know the summary of the responses that we receive.

May this Easter season continue to gladden your hearts and minds! - Fr Frank

Library News

A recent donation to our library is *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, the founding pastor of Saddleback Church in California and he writes for a very wide audience. The book offers a 40-day spiritual journey that helps you discover God's purpose for your life and is considered a blueprint for Christian living in the 21st century. Enjoy!



LIGHTHOUSE CD

Lighthouse CD Review: *The Dead Sea Scrolls* by Dr. John Bergsma

Ever wonder about the Dead Sea Scrolls and what they mean to us as Catholics? If so, check out this CD by Dr. John Bergsma. He helps us see how the Dead Sea Scrolls shed new light on the scriptures and what they mean for our church. He discusses the three major sects of Judaism, who they were, how they lived their faith and how knowing them helps us to better understand the scriptures and the culture behind them. Dr. Bergsma draws many fascinating parallels and shows us how the scrolls support St. Paul's writings to bring us to a greater understanding of our Catholic Faith. —Jim Walker



Left to Right, Back row- Tim King, Fr. Eric, Front row - Erin Smetzer, Teresita de Jesus, Bill Franklin, Noemi Velasquez, Alexa Garcia and Angel Garcia

Meet our newest members, who came into the church at the Easter Vigil this year...

Bill Franklin: Bill Franklin was baptized and received the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Bill was first introduced to Catholicism through his co-worker, good friend and then RCIA Sponsor, Briana Missler. Bri and her open willingness to share the Catholic faith brought Bill to a moving encounter with Christ one quiet Monday morning at St. Paul Church. (A church he had only viewed from the outside as he watched the school children enter and leave for weekday Mass for many years) Though alone in the Church, Bill's experience with Christ moved him both spiritually (hearing the call to Baptism) and physically, by meeting with Father Kehres to enter the pre-catechumenate RCIA process. Bill and his wife live in Norwalk and he is now thrilled to be able to participate fully with us at Mass. You will often see him at the 7am Mass on Sundays. Welcome Bill!

Tim King: Tim lives in Collins with his wife, Holly and their two children Reagan (8) and Chase (6). Although raised and baptized as a Presbyterian, he attended St. Catherine's School in Toledo for 2 years from 5th to 7th grade. After moving to this area, Tim regularly attended Mass at St. Paul with his wife, a cradle-catholic, and enrolled their children in Sunday PSR classes. It was during one of these PSR classes last fall that he experienced a call to conversion through a visiting priest, Fr. Jim Pfeiffer. Father Pfeiffer introduced himself to Tim and directly asked him if he was Catholic. This question sparked a conversation





that helped answer and work through some of the challenges Tim had with the Catholic faith. With this new outlook on Catholicism, Tim opened himself to learning more about the faith with the encouragement and support of his Sponsor, Sara Fitzgerald. Thanks to these and other witnesses, Tim answered God's call to conversion and we welcomed him through the initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Welcome Tim!

Erin Smetzer: Erin was born and raised in Norwalk by her family who had her baptized as an infant in the Methodist Church. Though her faith journey was often challenged, she found that by her college years she had surrounded herself with strong Christian friends. Through conversations on faith and bible studies, her friends helped Erin recognize that "God was knocking." She answered His call with the support of her father and his childhood bible. She dove into scripture and soon found faith through His word. After attending Mass with a Catholic friend, Erin realized the Catholic Church was the first Church that truly inspired her. She began to attend Mass regularly and she quickly found that she wanted to become Catholic. Before accepting the initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil, she shared that she was very excited and "so ready!" Welcome Erin!

Noemi Velazquez, children Angel and Alexa Garcia: Raucel and Noemi are married and their children are Angel and Alexa. Raucel says that "sometimes we underestimate the power of prayer; for a long time I have been praying for my family's conversion to the Catholic Church, the faith that I received when I was growing up. At the Spanish couples retreat in October 2011 they asked us to write a petition and throw it on the bonfire. For me the miracle came right after this when Noemi told me she wanted to join the Catholic faith. The greater miracle will be when we marry in the church."

Raucel, Noemí y sus hijos Ángel y Alexa. Raucel dice que "algunas veces no entendemos el poder de la oración", por mucho tiempo he estado pidiendo por la conversión de mi familia a la Religión Católica, la que recibí cuando era niño. Pero no fue hasta que en el retiro de matrimonios en octubre del 2011 nos pidieron que escribiéramos una petición y lanzarla a la fogata. Para mi el milagro vino en seguida cuando Noemí decidió formar parte de nuestra Fe Católica. Pero el milagro más grande será cuando nos unamos en matrimonio por la Iglesia Católica.

Teresita de Jesus Bravo: Terisita and her husband Roberto Martinez, have 2 children, have been attending Mass at St Paul for at least five years. Teresita says "I have been looking for a reconciliation with God and it is here that I found it."

Teresita y su esposo Roberto Martínez, tienen 2 hijos y han estado atendiendo a misa en St. Paul por lo menos durante 5 años. Teresita dijo "he estado buscando una reconciliación con Dios y esa aquí donde la he encontrado."





Living Lent Reflection

The Social Concerns Ministry Team sat down recently to reflect on the Living Lent that we had planned for the parish. We asked the congregation to do so many different things be nice to people by performing Random Acts of Kindness, bring donated items to Mass and participate in the Offertory procession several times, participate in our Fair Trade Sale, attend eye and heart opening films and finally to remember our brothers and sisters in our community and around the world who are less fortunate than we are.

Our goal for all these activities was to educate the parish on social issues of concern and to provide opportunities to take action in working toward meeting these problems.

We wanted to actually "live Lent". While this is our first attempt at an effort like this we are very pleased with the participation and thank each of you for stepping out of your comfort zone to participate in caring for others. We collected far more paper and cleaning items and food than any of us anticipated! Your generosity was outstanding!

Remember if you are running out of your fair trade items or want to purchase additional items you can visit the web sites listed below. It is our hope that you will keep looking for opportunities to help those in need in our community and in the world. As a team, we are planning more events for the future. Keep your eyes open!

www.serrv.org
www.equalexchange.coop
www.vairinternational.org
www.crs.org



CONFIRMATION 2012!

Our Confirmation celebration was held April 28th and almost 65 young people and several adults were confirmed by Monsignor Mike Billian. This year, parents and youth voted to not have the traditional Confirmation banners. Several of the candidates lent their talents into creating an 8ft. cross commemorating the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This cross can be used for years to come and will be a wonderful new symbol for our future Confirmation classes. Thanks to Tommy Traczek, Ashley McFaul and Lyndsey Llewellyn for their help!



Left to right Tommy Traczek and Ashley McFaul



**BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY**
A Listening Presence

BeFriender Corner

As a BeFriender, we learn that we all have an "assumptive world". This means that all of us interpret the events that happen in our lives based on our experiences with nature, with God, with each other and with ourselves. We see things differently. Our interpretations are not right or wrong, they are just different.

We try to be open to the others perspective, be accepting of the difference and not judge their interpretation. We know that when we experience other views, our own assumptions are affected. They can be made deeper, broadened or given a whole new reality.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Society of St. Vincent De Paul - Norwalk St. Paul Conference
Semi-annual fiscal report Oct 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

Rent -	\$30,723.10
Electric -	\$4,396.60
Gas -	\$1,025.26
Propane -	\$1,582.68
Water -	\$2,988.40
Food -	\$2,003.50
Lodging -	\$1,374.38
Gasoline -	\$270.00
Milk & Diapers* -	\$4,004.53
Other** -	\$3,446.89
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Total -	\$51,815.34
Adults assisted -	459
Children assisted -	453

We call ourselves Vincentians in tribute to St. Vincent de Paul. What Vincentians have in common is a desire to serve those who are poor and suffering. Vincentians can provide immediate help with food and clothing, as well as prevent homelessness by helping with rent and the threat of a utility disconnection. We do provide some transportation assistance for medical appointments and job interviews.

Vincentians embrace the lonely, forgotten and alienated by providing services to anyone in need. We offer hope to individuals giving them a chance to recover from their financial problems. We refer them to other agencies for longer term assistance. Family home visits have always been the fundamental activity of Vincentians so we can better understand their situation and determine the best way we can help.

*this includes monthly milk vouchers and diapers to Norwalk Area Food Bank
Number of clients assisted is 2,699 (1,274 adults and 1,425 children).

** Others included A Bigail Pregnancy Center, baby cribs for Miriam House, Senior Enrichment center, medical transportation, Indigent funeral fund, and the Ohio Attorney General and Secretary of State Fees. It also includes our conference expenses which consisted of postage stamps, P.O. Box rental, and computer and office supplies of \$245.67.

To respect the wishes of those who donate to us and support our work, we do our best to verify the legitimacy of our clients' claims of need before providing any assistance.

In the spirit of Christ, who leads our ministry, we help our neighbors based on need without judgment. St. Vincent de Paul committee would like to thank our generous Parishioners for the financial support you have given us.

Many Blessings to you,
Vincentian members
Society of St. Vincent De Paul
Norwalk St. Paul Conference

Welcome
NEWLY REGISTERED PARISHIONERS

Donald & Shirley Nickoli



10 Easy Ways to Go Greener at Home - Besides Recycling

1. Plant an herb garden
2. Create a homemade compost bin for \$15.
3. Line dry your laundry.
4. Collect rainwater, and use it to water your houseplants and garden.

5. Use cloth napkins daily instead of paper.
6. Switch to shade-grown coffee with the "Fair Trade" label
7. Watch "The Story of Stuff" with your kids and talk about the impact your household trash has on our landfills

8. Support local restaurants that use food derived less than 100 miles away, and learn more about the benefits of eating locally.
9. Pay as many bills as possible online.
10. Conduct a quick energy audit of your home.

St. Paul Catholic Church

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PAID

NORWALK, OH

Permit No. 25

**St. Paul Boosters \$100 Daily Drawing
Winners from March**

- Andrew Schafer
- Connie Loyer
- Jeff Wiedemann
- Joe Stein
- John C. Schaffer (2)
- John Wasiniak
- Mamie Giallombardo
- Ken Scheid
- Jessica Bleile
- Marcia Nickoli
- Jennifer Springer