



St. Gabriel the Archangel
Catholic Church and School

St. Gabriel Herald

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Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

By Fr. Larry Crawford

One of the major events which occurs in the parish every year is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). It has been said that the RCIA was the most revolutionary of all the rites that were revised after Vatican II. Many people believe that the RCIA provides a model for life of the adult Christian and the church as a community.

Sunday, January 9 is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. At St. Gabriel this is the feast we choose to celebrate the **Acceptance in to the Order of Catechumens.**

The Catechumenate is the period during which people formally consider joining the Catholic Church. A person who has not been baptized is referred to as a Catechumen. A person who has been baptize but is considering making a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church is referred to as a Candidate.

It is an extend period during which the candidates are given suitable pastoral formation and guidance, aimed to training them in the Christian life. This is achieved in four ways:

1. A suitable education program is proved leading the person to a sense of the mystery of salvation in which they desire to participate. This is accomplished by weekly meet-

ings.

2. As they become familiar with the Christian way of life and are helped by the example and support of sponsors, godparents and the entire Christian community, the catechumens learn to turn more readily to God in prayer, to bear witness to the faith, and to live their life hopes set on Christ. This is also assisted by the Rite of Dismissal. From this point on the Catechumens and Candidates gather each Sunday after the Liturgy of the Word to discuss the Scripture of the day and how it applies to their life.

3. The church helps the catechumens on their journey by mean of suitable liturgical rites during Lent which purify the catechumens and strengthens them with God blessings.

4. The catechumens should also learn how to work to spread the Word of God to others.



The original purpose of the period of Lent was the final preparation for the Catechumens. It was a later development in the history of the church that the period was also a period of renewal for those already baptized. That is why today there is a renewed emphasis that the period of Lent is a period of Conversion and Renewal. Not just a time of penance which ends on Easter.

Easter comes very early this year. So Lent will begin on February 9.

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2 **The Parish Celebration of Enrollment of Names and Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates**

3 **for Recognition by the Bishop** always occurs on the First Sunday of Lent. That is the day that the Catechumens and Candidates formally sign the Book of Elect. That is the book that is in front of the altar during the season of Lent and we pray for these people regularly at Lenten worship and prayer.

5 **Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Conversion for Candidates**

6 Based upon the testimony of the godparents and the RCIA Team the Church judges the readiness of the Catechumens and Candidates and decides on their advancement toward the

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2003-04 Confirmation Class

By Patrick R. Pearsey

For the past year, 60 youths from St. Gabriel Parish have undergone a test of their faith, in preparation for their final initiation into the Catholic church. This is unlike the days when Catholics received little preparation before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at an early age. The 2003-04 St. Gabriel Confirmation class began in November of 2003, with a registration class with parents in attendance.



Once a month over the next year, 8th to 12th grade parishioners from St. Gabriel met for a 2-hour session of classroom instruction and discussion. The entire process of the sacrament was studied in detail, down to the definition of chrism oil. The class was begun by Ms. Deanna Lustig and completed by Ms. Virginia Cygan, the new Director of Faith Formation. Each student in the confirmation class had to maintain good attendance and also perform 30 service hours, which in some way helped their community.

All of this dedication culminated on October 26, 2004 at Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral when 71 Catholic youth from four parishes in Marion County, received the sacrament of confir-



ment of confirmation from Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein. Choir members from the parishes provided music. The following are the names of the St. Gabriel parishioners who made their

choice of faith after much deliberation.

David Bain,Chelsea Beecher,Daniel Beecher, Amanda Brown,Jack Brown Jr.,Joseph Bruder, Bayli Bumen,Lili Carey,Micala Carey,Kyle Casey, Jeremy Coach,Kara Curtis,Heather Dalsing, Mitchell Dannenbrink,Haley Thurman, Matthew Ervin,Paul Ervin,Adam Espinoza, Amanda Gading,Anthony Gading, Catherine Haddad,Jacob Haddad,Brian Hanley, Martin Hanley,Zachary Huber,Michael Kaiser, Sarah Kaiser,Justin Keith, Michael King,Paige Koors, Brooke Lahr, Kristina Locke,Benjamin Macias, Jacob Macias, Jolene Mormance,Michelle Mormance, Colleen Murphy,Aimee O'Connor, Anastasia O'Connor,

Stephen Overcash,Lawrence Ozobu Jr. Sandra Powell, Corey Pumphrey,Jessica Randolph,Scott Raychel, Shannon Raychel,Heather Riczo, Grant Schumacher, Anthony Smith,Julia Thompson,Lauren Thompson, Jasmine Traylor,Eric Wagner,Tyler Wagner,Kyle Walton, Mark Zetzl,Matthew Zetzl



Did you know.....some interesting facts

A zebra is white with black stripes.

All the planets in our solar system rotate anti-clockwise, except Venus. It is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

Hummingbirds are the only animal that can also fly backwards.

Insects do not make noises with their voices. The noise of bees, mosquitoes and other buzzing insects is caused by rapidly moving their wings.

The cockroach is the fastest animal on 6 legs covering a meter a second.

The word "listen" contains the same letters as the word "silent".

A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A hippopotamus can run faster than a mans.

It is impossible to lick your elbow. (We know you gonna try this !!!)

From Whence We Came

Our Legacy of History

The Family of Henry (Hank) & Dolores Bryant

By Margaret Kennedy

The Bryants were in the neighborhood before St. Gabriel was built. They purchased their house in 1959 and attended St. Michael Church. A few years later it was announced that St. Gabriel was to be built. Hank said that he would often drive by the spot and watch how it was coming along.

Hank grew up in Indianapolis. He had one sister who died as a baby, one brother and three half-brothers. He attended Schools 44 and 41 and later graduated from Shortridge High School. Hank did not grow up Catholic. As a child he was sent to the Nazarene Church. A lady there kept after him to go to the front of the church each Sunday and confess his sins to the congregation. Hank didn't want to do that, so each Sunday he would leave the house early and go to Highland Golf Course where he would caddy. Sometimes he would walk the railroad tracks looking for wood to sell. As he grew older he would deliver groceries for a nearby store.

Hank always liked the Catholic Church and finally converted in 1987. He said that Father Paul said to him one day, "you're here most of the time, why don't you come to RCIA and see if you would like to become Catholic." Hank did attend and hasn't regretted it.

Dolores grew up in St. Catherine Parish and graduated from Sacred Heart Central High School. She had one sister and five brothers. She said that she remembers vividly that they had a 1930 Model A car. All of the family, seven children and her parents, nine in all, would squeeze into that car and go to church. Quite a contrast to the way we travel with our children today.

Hank and Dolores met in 1956. Dolores and her third cousin would often roller skate. This cousin had a boy friend that had a friend in the Marines. The friend was coming home on leave. She asked Dolores if she would like to meet the young Marine and they could double date. Dolores told her that she didn't think so as she had already been out late for several nights. The cousin finally talked her into meeting the Marine, and the rest is history. They married in St. James the Greater Church (now Good Shepherd) on the Southside of Indianapolis.

As previously mentioned, Dolores liked to roller

skate. Just a few years ago her family talked her into trying out a roller blade. She reluctantly tried them out in Eagle Creek Park, had problems trying to stop and she fell down. Dolores broke her arm in two places. Needless to say she hasn't been back on a blade since!

Hank and their children like to play golf. He stated proudly, "We are a golfing family."

They Bryants are firm believers in Catholic education. They feel that their three children received a good foundation for life right here at St. Gabriel School. The couple have three children; Henry, Jr., Diane, and Linda. All three graduated from our school.

Henry was active in scouting when he was in school here at St. Gabriel. He was on the team of Exercise in Knowledge while he attended Ritter High School. Henry attended pharmacy school for five years, and then received his master's degree and later his PhD. Henry, Jr. served his internship at Walter Reed Research Hospital. He currently works at Eli Lilly and is a senior research scientist and is director of bone research. He holds over 82 patents in America and over 50 European patents. He travels all over the world giving presentations. Henry and his wife, Sherri, have three children. Jennifer is in her second year of pharmacy school, Laura is a junior at Chatard, and John is an eighth grader at St. Pius X School.

Their daughter, Diane, also graduated Ritter High School. She was very active in scouting when she was in school. She graduated from ITT School of Business.

Linda, their youngest daughter, also graduated from Ritter High School and ITT School of Business. She married Ed Ervin and they have two sons; Matthew and Paul. Matthew is currently attending Ritter High school and Paul is an eighth grader here at St. Gabriel.

Hank started working for Allison's when he was 18 years of age. He retired after 39 years in 1990. He immediately started volunteering at St. Gabriel. He weeds, edges, and cuts the grass in addition to trimming the trees on the church and school grounds.

Dolores worked for DA Lubricant for 28 years and she retired in January of 1990.

The Bryant's have been faithful and hardworking members of our parish and the people of our parish thank God for their many contributions.

The Rewards of Liturgical Ministry: Lector and Cantor

By Diane Stodhard

I am a lector. I am not a reader. What's the difference, you ask? A lector is a prophet! In the Medieval Church, the lector was actually an ordained minister. Lector was one of



the seven holy orders of priesthood: porter, lector, exorcist, acolyte, sub deacon, deacon, and priest. Over time, this custom changed, but the role of lector did not. The prophets were the mouthpieces of God. Thus, a lector follows in the footsteps of Samuel, Ezekiel,

Daniel, and other prophets. Because the Word is always alive and active, it can never be simply read. My job as lector is to proclaim the word of God. Consequently, being a lector is an awesome responsibility, and also a wonderful privilege. I realized this most vividly on October 7, 2001. Our country was still in shock from September 11. I had to read from the book of Habakkuk: "I cry out to you 'Violence!' but you do not intervene... Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife and clamorous discord." When I saw these words, I knew I had to proclaim them. I could not just read them. The people of St. Gabriel had to hear in Habakkuk's words their own prayerful plea to God. Once that was accomplished, I then had to read God's reply to Habakkuk so that the people would hear God's answer to them: "The vision still has its time... If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late." God, through Habakkuk—through me—was telling us to have faith, and to trust him. I felt so blessed that day because, through my proclamation of scripture, I brought our parish God's comforting words at a time of stress and anxiety. And every Sunday since then, I cherish my role as lector—my duty as God's mouthpiece.

I am also a cantor. I am not a singer. And like the lector, one of my main duties as cantor is to proclaim the word of God—in song. The cantor is from the Jewish worship tradition, where the cantor is the leader of worship and sung prayer. In Christian worship, the choir eventually replaced the cantor, and unfortunately became a surrogate for the congregation in the liturgy. During Vatican II, though, the bishops realized the importance of having a congregation that was active in the work of the liturgy. After all, liturgy means "the work of the people." The bishops believed the best way to accomplish this would be through a cantor.

The cantor does more than sing. The cantor proclaims the Word, particularly as psalmist. Thus, the cantor is not a song leader, but a prayer leader. They also must be a litur-



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RCIA

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sacraments of initiation. This is the ceremony at which the Archbishop in the name of the greater church formally says that these persons may be admitted to the Sacraments of Initiation on Easter.

While the Catechumens and Candidates are always free to withdraw from the program at any time, there are legal consequences to the Rite of Election. If a Candidate or Catechumen would die before Baptism on Easter, they are entitled to a Christian Burial in the Catholic Church.

Because they are asking for three sacrament of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist) the elect must have the intention of achieving an intimate knowledge of Christ and his church, and they are expected to progress in genuine self-knowledge through serious examination of their lives and true repentance.

1. **First Scrutiny and Presentation of the Creed** – Third Sunday of Lent. At this Scrutiny besides the prayer for change and growth the Church now formally gives to these people the symbol of faith, the symbol for which people have literally sacrificed their lives.
2. **Second Scrutiny** – Fourth Sunday of Lent
3. **Third Scrutiny and Presentation of the Lord's Prayer** – Fifth Sunday of Lent. On this final day of prayer and purification the church also entrusts to these chosen the prayer which is most sacred to the believing community; the prayer which Jesus Himself taught us.

As we go through the holy season of Lent, I hope the experience of these people enkindles a new enthusiasm in you for your Catholic Faith, and a motivation for a good season of renewal for yourself. I hope, as you see and experience the joy of these people on their journey of faith it provides you with a real purpose to help spread the Gospel News to others.

General suggestions, story ideas, or writing and editing help are always welcome. Please feel free to contact any one of the newsletter volunteers:

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All submissions to *The St. Gabriel Herald* will be edited for brevity and clarity, punctuation and spelling.



Share Your Culture

By Lulu Alcos

Being in this country for nearly ten years, I would say that I'm a bit westernized. Although I have been a US citizen for four years now, I know that deep down in my heart I am still a Filipino and always will be. I'm so proud of my culture and heritage and am happy to share it.

A great number (about 97%) of Filipinos are Catholic. Being so, the daily recitation of the rosary is a common practice. In fact, it is the people's unified effort and prayers with strong faith of the intercession of the Mother of God that led them to EDSA, Epifania Delos Santos Avenue, to regain political freedom. The country had thus been freed from moral aberration during the Marcos regime.

Filipinos are a prayerful people who understand the meaning of Mass. Mass is attended frequently, not just on Sunday. Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help is honored on Wednesdays, St. Jude, the saint of the impossible on Thursdays, the Sacred Heart on Fridays and Mary again on Saturdays.

The "Block Rosary" still occurs. A statue of Mary is brought to a family home where the rosary is said daily. It stays for a week and then moves on to the next family. The entire month of May is devoted to Mary. After devotional prayers, children bring basketfuls of flowers, which are strewn about Mary's statue.

The Stations of the Cross are a frequent occurrence during Lent. Frequent confession is the norm, not just during Lent, but all year long. A procession is held on Good Friday with life-sized statues of Jesus after being removed from the cross, Mary and others. The parishioners carry lighted candles, say the rosary and sing.

Similarly, a dawn procession is held on Easter morning. One group follows a large statue of the risen Jesus and another follows Mary, the Sorrowful Mother. When they meet a group of children dressed in white with angel wings, one little angel lifts the black veil of the Sorrowful Mother and all then proceed to church for the Easter Mass.

Simbang Gagi, translated literally as night Mass, occurs the nine days preceding Christmas. Mass is held at 4am and parishioners give up their sleep to attend each morning. The Christmas Midnight Mass is always standing room only.

Filipinos are known for their hospitality. Casual acquaintances as well as strangers are welcomed to the home. The host gives up his bed for the guest, feeds him and gives him the best in his house.

Elders are revered. Kissing the hands of parents and older relatives is a sign of respect. Family ties are very close. The father is the head of the family and he rules. The mother governs. She is the teacher, financial officer, cook, laundress and auditor. Respect for elders is shown in conversation by the use of the particle po. Filipino relationships are guided upon two traditional attitudes, "atikesama" meaning mutual trust and help, and "teng na loof", which means a man pays his debt of gratitude to a friend or another person who has helped him.

Filipinos are recognized not only by their distinct features but also by their refined, mild mannered personalities.

Should we do things to be saved or because we are saved?

First let us be clear on how we are saved. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ (Eph 2:8-9; CCC 161), not by our own efforts. In this sense, works can not save us. But we must cooperate with grace; faith must be completed by our love and obedience in order to be living, saving faith (Gal 5:6; Rom 1:8; Jas 2:8-26). Here, works of Christian obedience, motivated by the love of God and neighbor, come into play. Without such works, our faith is dead and cannot save us (CCC 162).

So our cooperation—our "work" in a very limited sense—is necessary for salvation. Yet even our cooperation is a matter of grace. As St. Paul wrote, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil 2:12-13, my emphasis). Even when we cooperate with God by doing good, it is God who is inspiring, enabling and moving us to do so (Phil 4:13). Our part is to say "yes" and to love God with our whole heart, mind and strength by active obedience.

One thing to keep in mind: Being saved is more than a "one-time event." It is a process. There are "three tenses" to salvation. If someone asks, "Are you saved?" you should answer: "I have been saved from my sins through Christ's death and resurrection. I am being saved as I cooperate with God's grace. And I will be saved so long as I do not reject God's love and I die in His friendship (that is, in a state of grace)". Salvation is a past, present and future reality.

Reprinted from "Catholic Question of the Week", Ascension Press with permission

Mail Security

St. Gabriel Church and School have had some problems with mail. We have been in contact with U. S. Postal authorities regarding the security of mail being delivered to both the parish and the school. In cooperation with the postal authorities, steps have been implemented to ensure the security of all mail being delivered. Be assured that mail addressed to either the parish or the school will reach its intended destination.



