



St. Gabriel the Archangel
Catholic Church and School

St. Gabriel Herald

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Spring 2005

More Sacraments Than You Think

By Chris Young

Those of you who attended this year's Easter Vigil service probably think that you were witness to people participating in three sacraments: Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. Indeed these are the official sacraments that are celebrated at this most holy of liturgies. However, any sign or symbol which comes from God and confers grace in some ways can be described as a "sacrament".

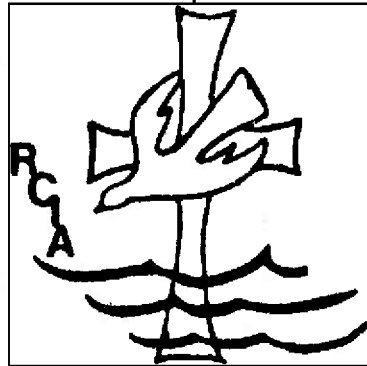
I believe that the most significant sign or symbol of the Easter Vigil other than the official sacraments is the sign of the participants themselves who are freely choosing to pursue a Christian life through the Catholic Church. At least for me, as I look back over 20 or so Easter Vigils, that I have attended, the sign of people making this choice is the most meaningful and it is what drew me back into the church after a long absence.

In my late teens and early 20s I drifted away from the church as many people do. My self-image as a skeptical scientific thinker had difficulty accepting the idea that certain things were by their nature unprovable and could only be accepted through faith. However in my late 20s a variety of circumstances began to draw me back to the church. One of them was an invitation of a friend to attend the

Easter Vigil where her husband was going to be making a profession of faith, and would be confirmed and welcomed to the Lord's Table as a Catholic. I was one of those proverbial "C & E Catholics," who only attended church on Christmas and Easter if at all. I could also occasionally be persuaded to go to church when friends or family members were receiving sacraments. It was explained to me that there would be Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation and in addition this Saturday night service also counted for Easter so it seemed to me that it met all of my criteria as an excuse to go to Mass.

Although the service can last three hours or longer, it seemed like it went by very quickly. It starts with the Easter fire outside the church and a candlelit procession into the church. The St. Gabriel choir and musicians are always in their best form for this special occasion and one cannot help but be moved by the music. The Scripture readings start literally "In the beginning..." with Genesis 1:1 and move through all of salvation history, from the crossing of the Red Sea to the prophetic predictions of the coming Messiah, culminating in the salvation that comes through His death and glorious Resurrec-

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St. Joseph

For quite some time St. Gabriel Parish has been praying to St. Joseph to intercede to God for help with our financial resources. Before Christmas his statue was moved to the front of the church to help remind us of his goodness and to remember to pray to him. We now have another resource to help us to pray. Holy cards with a picture of St. Joseph were printed and placed in church in time for St. Joseph's feast day on March 19th. It is hoped that parishioners will take these home and place them on their prayer table or prayer book, as a reminder to pray for our parish. If you did not get a card please call the parish office to have one sent to you. We sincerely thank Mr. Joseph F. Stevens, Jr. of Stevens Mortuary, Chapel of the Flowers for printing and donating the cards to us. Stevens Mortuary also donates our calendars every year too.





From the Pastor's Desk

Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year! Spring is also one of the busier times of the year in a parish. In our worship life we are now experiencing 50 days of new life and new hope in the Risen Lord.

This month in our parish the Parish Pastoral Council will approve the five year goals for the parish. Next month the budget for the fiscal year 2005-2006 will be approved. Both of these processes will bring to a conclusion months of intensive work by the Commissions and the Council.

We will also be hosting our Welcome Home program. This is an annual chance for us to address members of the largest religion in the US... fallen away Catholics! Please invite members of your family, co-workers, and neighbors. We really do want to help them in their journey back to the Lord. (And remember, many do want to do it. They just do not know how.) You might be shocked at the result of a simple invitation.

Then there is May in Indianapolis. The first Saturday of May is always special in St. Gabriel parish because it is First Communion Day. The first time a person approaches the table of the Lord is special. This year, I hope it is a chance for all of us to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives and to ask ourselves some serious questions about frequency of our reception. For some people it is a regular and weekly occurrence. But some people may suffer from spiritual Anorexia. They think they do not need to come to Mass. Their relationship with Christ is just fine. They really are like the girl who is so very thin, yet she thinks of herself as fat and will not eat. Many people today think they do not need to go to Mass every Sunday and eat at the Lord's Table. In their distorted spiritual mirror they think they are fine; but they are starving to death. I hope that our parish celebration of First Communion this year is a chance for many persons to renew their spiritual eating habits.

We are in the midst of serious preparations for the festival. We want the festival to grow. But really there are two areas in which we can grow and make a substantial difference; the raffle and the adult games. Those are the real financial centers.

Please help us with the raffle. We need to get the raffle tickets all the way across the U.S. Please help us to find new sellers of our tickets. Not just punchers of tickets, but new sellers of tickets

We need to increase substantially the number of players in our adult games. This can be done by you really promoting the festival. Tell people about the festival. Invite them to come. Bring them with you. Our festival is an important source of income for the parish. We need to spread the word to all of Marion County and the surrounding counties.

Fr. Larry Crawford, Pastor

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

By Virginia Cygan

The Sunday morning religious education program boast 103 students from pre-kindergarten through high school with ten Catechists this year. There are two Sacramental Preparation classes within this program for the children who need catechesis before they can catch up with their regular classes and also receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist. These 38 students will receive their sacraments next year.

We have 21 First Eucharist candidates who will experience their Saturday retreat on April 23, 2005. These students attend the retreat with their parents and they will experience six learning sessions with an opening and closing prayer service. They will receive their First Holy Eucharist on Saturday, May 7, 2005 at a special 2:00 p.m. Mass.

The Catechists had agreed to attend special meetings for instruction to be certified by the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education. Those with two or more years experience were fully certified. The new Catechists received their Catechetical Trainee Certification and will be fully certified after serving two years as a Catechist. We are very proud of that our Catechists received their certification credentials. They deserve our congratulations! It shows they care greatly about teaching the Catholic faith to our children.

Our RCIA Catechumens and Candidates were given a special Rite of Sending at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday February 13, 2005, at which time they wrote their names in the Book of Elect. That same evening they were lovingly welcomed and recognized as the elected by God to the Catholic Church. This marks a milestone in their journey toward the Easter Vigil when they will be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith.

The Faith Formation Office has been blessed this year with the following office helpers: Debbie Grunden, Esperanza Covarrubias, Linda Carey, and Rebecca Ambler. These volunteers are responsible for making the Faith Formation Program work more efficiently. They help with translation, registration, filing, mailings, telephone calls, and resources. We cannot thank them enough for their assistance. ✝



"The survey shows that the congregation wants to be spiritually fed and challenged by shorter sermons while adding more support and outreach groups that demand less of their time and money."

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From Whence We Came

Our Legacy of History

By Marcy Dowden

My name is Marcy Dowden and my husband, Steve and I have been members of St. Gabriel Parish for about 20 years. Our three kids are alumni of St. Gabriel School. Our daughter and son-in-law are living in Cincinnati and our sons are attending Xavier University there too. I am proud of the excellent education they received at our school.

When I think about my ties to St. Gabriel, I have to mention that I have been teaching kindergarten here for 13 years. Watching all those children mature, as well as greeting new kids each year has been very special. I cherish the families I've gotten to know and the staff I've worked with over the years.

There have been many opportunities to volunteer in the parish including, the Home and School Association, working at the Festival, Legacy of Hope and the Church Building Committee, and currently the Faith Formation Commission of the Parish Council. Each of these has introduced me to more of the wonderful, hard working, and fun volunteers in this parish. I find I enjoy attending Mass, parish events and even meetings because there usually is someone I know well and care about. Our parishioners are like family and that is what is most special about St. Gabriel Parish. ✝

In Loving Remembrance

A way to honor a departed friend or loved one by making a memorial gift to the Lord's work.

It expresses your thoughtfulness, and at the same time, helps you further the work of God. The following gifts were received since the printing of the summer newsletter:

In Loving Remembrance of:

Tony Bower

Gift of Serita Lux

Madeline Jozsa

Gift of Mark & Lynda Miller

Eileen White

Gift of Jeffrey & Susan Roberts

Patrick Lamey

Gift of Margaret Arthur

Bertha Dvorscak

Gift of Joe & Shirley Christian

Gladys Potenza

Gift of Wright Payne & the Jon Lybarger Family



A Winning Spirit

By Patrick R. Pearsey

In September of 2004, my brother Charles called me up and asked if I'd like to help him coach the 4th Grade boy's basketball team for Saint Gabriel. I said yes, because I felt I needed to volunteer for something, particularly because it was stewardship time. I wasn't sure how much I could contribute since I never played on a basketball team and hadn't played much at all in 30 years.

Our first practice was held in early November, nine boys showing up. This turned out to be our team for the season and I should list them now, in alphabetical order, with their eventual playing positions in parentheses: **David Del Rio** (Forward), **Dylan Griffith** (Center), **Derek Hamilton** (Forward), **Michael Hanley** (Guard), **David Martin** (Guard), **Roy Newton** (Guard), **James Pearsey** (Forward), **Danny Sweeney** (Guard) and **Zachory Vrabel** (Center).



The coaching staff, which included assistants **Patti Pearsey**, **Dennis Hanley**, **Joe Griffith** and **Tom Vrabel**, started teaching the boys basic ball handling skills and concentrated on these during a number of practices leading up to our first two games. Our "Team Mom" who admin-

istered to skinned knees, was **Andrea Bowman** and our team scorer was **Marjorie Hamilton**. Also assisting the team was Team Mentors, **Brian Hanley**, **Leo Del Rio** and **Kyle Rooney**. **Olivia Martin**, a 5th grade sister of **David Martin**, provided some sparks with her spirited play during our scrimmages. **Mary Rooney** served as team photographer. The boys and their parents were very dedicated, having a combined 92% attendance record. Most of our team made the Perfect Attendance roll at school.

Our first game was on December 4th against Our Lady of Lourdes on their home court. We didn't know what to expect but felt we had a reasonable chance of winning. The other team got off to a 16-0 lead, due to massive turnovers by the Gators. The Gators played Our Lady of Lourdes even in the 2nd half before losing 30-10. The next day, we were blown out by Central Catholic, 46-4. Our coaching staff didn't know it could get this bad, so quickly. When I heard one of our guards, **David Martin** remark during the beating that "It's only a game," it kind of put things back into perspective for me.

Despite the hard work of the players during the 17 practices we had, the team continued to lose, by large margins. There were some highlights, such as speedster **Roy** hitting his only shot, getting 3 rebounds and a team record 5 steals against Holy Name. During that same game we saw something executed that had been taught at a practice a few days earlier. **Zach** got a rebound, ran down court and then "dished off" to **Roy** for a lay-up. **James** led the team with

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Spotlight On Our Volunteers - Mike & Jackie Murphy

By Margaret Kennedy

They wanted to be involved in their daughter's lives, so they volunteered to help in every phase of parish life.

Mike grew up in Holy Trinity Parish and Jackie (Hemelgarn) in St. Gabriel parish. Both learned early on that it was important to give your time and talent to your church. So, when they married and had two daughters, Colleen and Shannon, it was just natural to volunteer in the church as well as the school.

Both Jackie and Mike have worked in all aspects of the parish and school. To name a few they have been involved in the annual school garage sales, chaperoned dances, worked to set-up as well as at the festival, the summer cleaning of the school, and Fun Company fundraisers. Jackie has been a room mother, collected items for our troops overseas, worked at Market Day and headed the Reverse Raffle. Mike has accompanied children on field trips, has served on the School Commission, and started the Alumni Association. Both Jackie and Mike have headed the YAC (Youth Athletic Commission). The YAC work has entailed coaching, trash bag sales, homecoming, sports banquet, and working concessions at Ritter games and the train show.

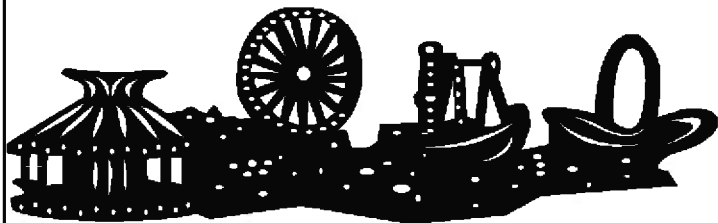
One of Mike's fond memories is of one of the young people he was chaperoning while on a field trip to Clowes Hall. She had a broken leg and couldn't maneuver the steps, so Mike carried her up the steps so she could enjoy the activities with the other children.

All of this work would have left most of us exhausted, but the Murphy's just seem to take it in stride. This positive attitude seems to be typical of those who love their children, parish, and school.

At the end of this school year, Mike and Jackie will "retire" from their YAC duties. Their dedication and valuable work will not only be long remembered, but will have far reaching implications for our parish and school. Mike and Jackie, your fellow parishioners heartily thank you for all you have done and we wish you well in your next endeavors. ✝

St. Gabriel International Festival

June 9~11, 2005



Quinceañeras

Compiled by Kathleen Mick

Many people have heard of the Spanish word *quinceañera*. Some, have even caught a glimpse of this event at St. Gabriel. But how many people actually know what a quinceañera is?



In the Hispanic culture, girls traditionally have an elaborate celebration for their 15th birthday. Quinceañera refers to the girl herself. (Pronounced KEEN-say-ah-nee-air-ah) The word *quinceañera* comes from a combination of two Spanish words: *quince* (fifteen) and *años* (years). This celebration of "coming out" is said to date back to the Aztecs and Mayans where at age fifteen, girls were presented to the community and given more responsibilities.

Families can spend thousands of dollars on these celebrations, which can be compared somewhat to those of weddings. The girl wears a formal dress and crown and is accompanied by up to 14 couples of girls and guys their age all dressed in formal attire. Receptions are held where there is the traditional vals (waltz)—a special dance of the quinceañera and her escorts—along with food and music.

For as much as a social celebration as it may seem, it also holds religious significance. It is important to note that the Catholic Faith has been tied into quinceañeras, not vice versa. Tradition tells us that Mary was around fifteen when she said yes to God. In the same way, the quinceañera dedicates herself to God. That is why some preparation is involved so that the girls are spiritually ready to make and carry out this commitment, and not get caught up in the social aspect and festivities. The preparation at St. Gabriel's includes a retreat, completing service hours, and studying scripture passages to choose the readings for the Mass.

At this time, one of our parishioners, Nadia Maldonado, is preparing to celebrate a quinceañera at the end of April. Please keep her in your prayers as she prepares for this event, and that she continues to recognize God's graces in her life as a young woman. ✝

Share Your Culture

By Rebecca Braganza

I have lived in Indianapolis since 1989. I migrated here to attend college at the University of Indianapolis and enjoyed the Hoosier hospitality so I stayed, got married and am raising my family here. Back then, Indianapolis was a sleepy Midwest city where not much happened, but that is not so today. Indianapolis has grown by leaps and bounds into a metropolis of national and international recognition.

Now a naturalized citizen, I was a bit surprised to hear, during the election process, that Indiana was in the Bible belt. I had never really thought of it as I just liked the fact that church is an important part of people's lives here. Having been raised in a culture, where the Roman Catholic Church was a large part of my social life in addition to my spiritual life, I was content not to have to explain to my neighbors that I went to Mass every Sunday morning. You see when I lived in Kuwait, the Muslim holy day of the week is Friday so the weekend was Thursday and Friday instead of Saturday and Sunday. The Roman Catholic Church in Kuwait had special permission from the Vatican for Friday to be the day of obligation.

When I was growing up, I spent a lot of my free time planning and putting on activities at church. Each year we had a Parent's Day in November, where the youth of the church put on a talent show and play for their parents. It was a big deal because it was orchestrated and performed entirely by the youth and young adults of the parish. Each summer we worked with the adults to have the summer foto. It was similar to our festival here at St. Gabriel with many more games and booths that sold food items and crafts.

In the spiritual realm, I was raised to go to Mass at every opportunity I could and not just on Sundays and days of obligation. Saying the Rosary was a family affair and was done every night after the family meal. In addition we attended the Rosary at church on Wednesday. The adoration of Mary was very prominent. May and October were the months that everyone made a special effort to recite the Rosary and honor Mary. We also had the traveling statue of the Blessed Mother. She would be brought by procession to ones home and would reside there for a week. During that week you invited your neighbors to pray the Rosary with you and then served light snacks afterwards during fellowship time. At the end of the week you processed with the statue to the next home on the list. Christmas and Easter were extravagant events both spiritually and socially. They are not so today because of all the unrest in the region. Celebrations are toned down today because of extra security and the curtailment of some freedoms because of the situation. I am glad I live here now so that I can pass on to my kids the traditions I was raised with freely.

I expect that Indianapolis will be my home for sometime yet unless the sunny shores of Florida beckon! ✝

Sacraments

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tion.

However it wasn't the beautiful rituals, the wonderful music, the pomp and circumstance, or the retelling of the salvation story that drew me back to church. It was the image of a half-dozen grown men and women approaching the altar and declaring that they wanted to be Catholic. The cynical part of me had always believed I had been tricked into religion as a small child before I was old enough to know any better. Yet these people looked to be intelligent, freethinking individuals from many walks of life, all of whom were declaring in front of God and everybody, that this was what they wanted. That symbol... that sacrament... was the one that had the most profound effect on me and led me back to the church.

I began by attending the RCIA program the next year and learning or re-learning the teachings of the church and discovering that there really was a place for me here. That led me to return the following year as a member of the RCIA team and eventually to become a catechist -- a ministry I've continued in for 20 years now. Each year a new group of individuals comes through the program each with their own particular reason for joining and their own unique perspective on the Catholic faith. Although my title is "catechist", I always feel that I take away from the experience much more than I ever put in.

In addition to my work with RCIA, I also lead our annual Catholics Returning Home program shortly after Easter each year. It's sort of a mini-RCIA for people who have drifted away from the church and are considering returning. It brings me great joy to participate in both of these programs, to assist others in their journey of faith and to grow myself from the experience. It keeps me coming back year after year.

If you know someone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please consider inviting them to RCIA next Fall. Have you or someone you know has drifted away from the church or have questions or issues that need resolved, please consider our Catholics Returning Home program. This program runs for six weeks starting April 5th at 7:30 p.m. in the media center. ✝

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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Rebecca Braganza at 273-0967	Patrick Pearsey at 293-7801
Kristine Goman at 291-8423	Charlotte Tsareff at 297-0396
Sr. Timothy Kavanaugh at 299-9842	
Margaret Kennedy at 291-5694	

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



