

A Letter from Fr. Steven

The Church is in need of evangelization. We are all called to conversion and we share in the mission of Jesus Christ to evangelize to all with whom we come into contact. In the document "Go and Make Disciples", the United States Bishops have outlined a basic strategy for Catholic evangelization in America. In this document are listed three necessary goals of evangelization: (1) Nurture your own faith growth, (2) invite others to conversion, and (3) transform the world through true Christian living.

Through his use of parables, Jesus teaches us these same three goals of evangelization. Jesus teaches us that in the kingdom of God the Almighty Father each of us is like good wheat growing amongst weeds. There is a constant tug of war between the weeds and the wheat. We are to imitate our Lord in our lives and in our relationships to prevent these weeds from taking over our lives and strangling out holiness. This is hard work, constant and draining. Even though the human condition produces difficulty and challenges for each of us our faith can grow strong when we stay focused on the end prize. Overcoming this earthly struggle results in communion with God in the Heavenly Kingdom, it takes effort to receive this benefit. The weeds will take over if we do not work daily at growing in holiness, if we are not open to evangelization.

Jesus teaches that in the kingdom of God each of us is like a tiny seed that grows into a tree so large that others benefit from the abundance of our growth. Evangelization requires that each of us share our faith, share our belief in Jesus Christ, share our life formed by the Holy Spirit each and every day of our lives. Others can benefit from our faith when we open our hearts and minds to evangelization. Our spiritual growth can become a source of inspiration for others when we invite them into our lives and into our relationships. The Holy Spirit empowers us to nourish others with our own experiences of compassion, love and mercy.

Jesus teaches that in the kingdom of God each of us is like yeast that helps the flour to rise and mature into the bread of life that nourishes others. We are to evangelize others. We were created and called to be Eucharist to others. Our involvement in the life and ministry of the Holy Catholic Church can make a difference in our troubled

world. Like minds and hearts coming together in unity, in holiness, in prayer and worship has the capacity to make a difference in the workplace, in our community, and in our parish. With the working of the Holy Spirit and our involvement, which is what evangelization is, our personal lives and our world can be transformed. It begins with evangelization. We are to become what we receive. During Mass, as we receive the Eucharist, we are empowered to become Eucharist for the world by nourishing what is good, holy, happy and healthy around us each and every day of our lives.

*With faith, hope and love,
Father Steven C. Rogers*

Mark your calendars for ***Heritage Festival, October 12, 2008***. The Social Committee extends an invitation to any parishioner to help with ideas, ethnic booths, setup/cleanup, and the children's area. We are looking for parishioners with talents to entertain at the event. Donations are also needed for an Americana basket and Multicultural basket for raffle. To join the fun or ask questions, contact Jane Hunley at 353-2133, Peggy Mynatt at 353-5362 or e-mail OLL.dm@comcast.net.

This is another parish FUNRAISER!

News from Adam Haake

Dear Our Lady of Lourdes Parishioners:

I write this thank you note from Rome. Many thanks for all the prayers and support that have brought me over here. I am begging our Lord through our Mother to bless our parish in faith, hope and love. I have realized in my short time here the powerful effect of living so close to Peter. To be close to, and learn first hand from the Holy Father, is the primary reason for studying over here, for which I am grateful. As well there is tangibility to our faith that you can literally reach out and touch, which is another reason why so many people come over here on pilgrimage. So anytime you all want to come visit me, all you have to do is look up your Raytown connection! Again, thank you so much, and I look forward, and pray that if it is our Lord's will, that in five years I can come back to our diocese as a priest.

In Jesus and Mary,
Adam M. Haake

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

What more can I say than I've been truly blessed. Thank you for all the good wishes, prayers, cards and gifts. You will be in my prayers always.

Deacon Jerry

Recycle your inkjet and laser/toner cartridges and working cell phones

OLL school has begun recycling the items above for cash. We have a drop off box in the back of the church and in the lobby of the school. We will inspect, package and ship all items while earning money for our school. Contact Dawn Blackman at 358-5234 or zookeeperof3@sbcglobal.net with questions. Thanks for your support!!

Purchase scrip cards for back to school supplies and clothing.

HyVee is being added to our scrip program. Gift cards will be available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 increments. We have scrip cards/certificates for everyday items like clothing, gasoline and other essentials and with every purchase you earn revenue for our parish and school. Please contact the parish office at 353-2380 if you would like to purchase a card. If the card you want is not on hand, we will be glad to order it for you. Thanks for your support!

If you have enjoyed the blessings of a good marriage, please consider volunteering to be a lead couple for our parish marriage prep program. Call Deacon Sam at 353-2380.

Money Counters needed! These volunteers meet in the parish office each Monday morning on a rotating basis to help count the weekend contributions. Interested parishioners, please call the church office at 353-2380.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) sessions will be starting soon. If you are would like to participate in this important ministry as a team member, sponsor, or know someone who is interested in joining the Catholic church, please call Deacon Sam at 353-2380.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

MONDAY 8:00 a.m.	July 21 Joseph Bossert
TUESDAY 8:00 a.m.	July 22 Communion Service
WEDNESDAY 8:00 a.m.	July 23 Intentions of the Surber Family
THURSDAY 8:00 a.m.	July 24 Henry and Mary VanLanker
FRIDAY 8:00 a.m.	July 25 Julia Bauer
SATURDAY 5:00 p.m.	July 26 Jim Heavey
SUNDAY 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	July 27 People of the Parish Intentions of Bud and Monica Hancock

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

FRIDAY 8:30 a.m.	July 25 Adoration
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SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It's not too early to start thinking about the upcoming school year. Call 353-7062 to enroll your children for the 2008-2009 school year.

REAP NEWS

- Monthly pickup will be on **July 26th & 27th**. Some needs are flour, dishwashing liquid, sugar, instant potatoes, stuffing mix and tea.
- Volunteers are needed to help with sorting and delivering food to the REAP warehouse (this will always occur after 10:00 Mass the last Sunday of the month).
- School supplies are also needed and will be distributed by REAP. Barrels will be in the back of the church for the next few weeks.

New bulletin e-mail address

Make note of the new e-mail address for bulletin announcements: **bulletin@ollraytown.com**. Please remember that notices must be e-mailed to the above address or dropped off at the parish office by noon on Tuesday.