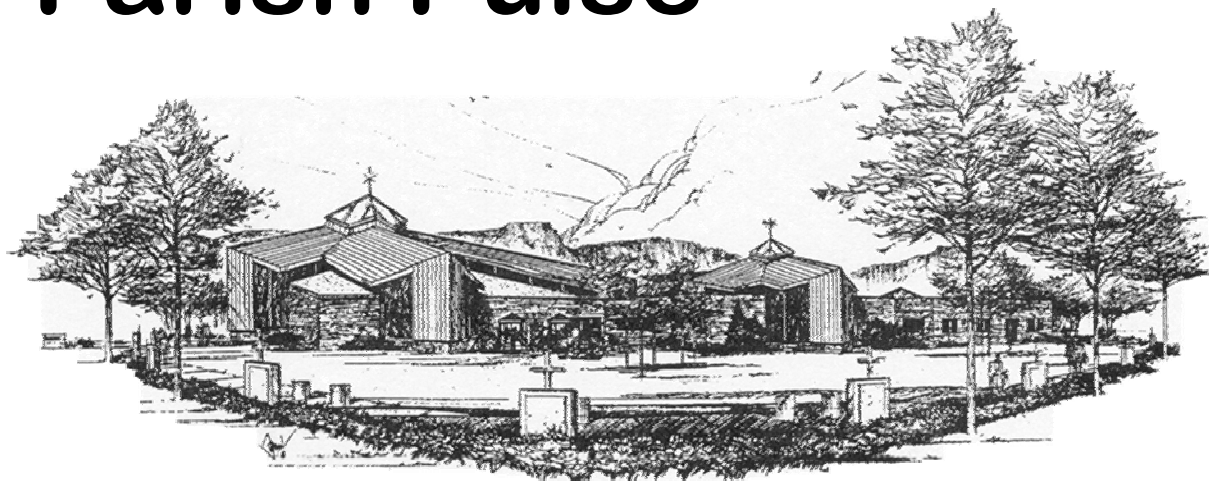


The Parish Pulse



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

790 26 1/2 Road

Grand Junction, CO 81506

Volume 20, Number 4

November 4, 2009—St. Charles Borromeo

All Saints Hymn

by Harry Hagan, OSB

Rejoice for all the saints this day
who ran by faith the narrow way.
The great and low together stand
With glory crowned at God's right hand.

How blessed they the Spirit's poor,
Their king is Jesus Christ the Lord;
And all who mourned have found new birth;
The patient meek await the earth.

How blessed those who fought the fight,
God's justice fills their thirst for right.
The pure of heart God's face behold;
The merciful have overflowed.

How blessed those who wrought the peace
As heirs they share the Victor's feast;
And prophets by injustice slain
Have claimed the Kingdom's righteous reign.

Come, martyrs and confessors, strong,
with virgins, monks, and nuns in song
Let wives and husbands, bound as one,
Let bishops, priests, and deacons come.

Come, holy men and women, all,
Who sing the praise of God, and call
To Christ who rose triumphantly
That we may join your company.

Most blest the Father and the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,
And praise forever more be sung. Amen.

Perfectionism

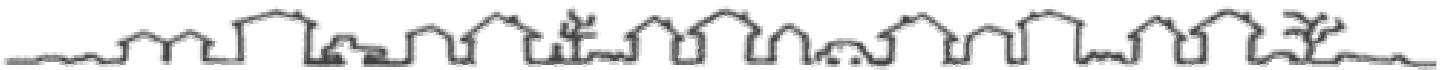
by Fr. John Farley

King Oscar II of Sweden visited a village school one day, and he asked the students to tell him who the greatest kings of Sweden were. The answers were unanimous: "The great King Gustavus Adolphus." The teacher whispered to a little boy, "and King Oscar," which he repeated out loud. "Is that right?" answered the King. "And what has he done that is so great?" The confused boy softly stuttered, "I don't know." "Well, I don't have any idea either," laughed the King.

Humility is such a delightful and appealing virtue. We could use so much more of it. Where does it come from? Are we born with it? Perhaps. Yet for many, including myself, any humility I have come from God and hard knocks. Admitting to ourselves that we are inadequate, imperfect, and fallible human beings is so difficult. The doorways to such humility are guilt and regret.

I have come to appreciate guilt and regret. Not shame. Just plain and simple guilt and regret. To me, having appropriate guilt or regret is to be honest, human and transparently open. Living with a sense of modesty and claiming no superiority over our fellow humans is what I think is appropriate guilt and regret. Shame, however, says we are worthless, junk, disgusting, failures, rejects, and so on. Plain ol' guilt or regret says, I know I am not perfect and have so much farther to go, and God is not finished with me yet. Honesty compels us to be unassuming and unpretentious. Such modesty also is able to claim our value and worth as God-given, as well as our healthy guilt and regret.

God did not create us as Angels or perfect beings, but rough-cut beings, who are in process, on a journey to God. We are incomplete and insufficient, seeking God's completion and sufficiency. There is no sense in pretending we are more than we are. Perfectionism is a pretentious disease which seems to go along with most addictions. Being delivered from "being perfect" as well as "being trash" is recovery and reconciliation.



Stephen Ministry News

by Linda Reed

During one of our recent Stephen Ministry meetings, we talked about listening - being a good listener - and what exactly that means. Many of us are so busy thinking of what we are going to say next, that we unintentionally fail to listen to what the other person is saying. This leaves the speaker wondering, "Does he even care what I'm saying?"

So...as a good listener we try to do that: really listen. Really hear what the other person is saying, and not compare his story with our story. We try to keep in mind that our neighbor's thoughts are important to him and worth listening to. So, the point is to not interject ourselves and our story into what the other person is saying.

However, this doesn't mean that we sit there like a stick, with no reaction at all to what is being told to us. By using appropriate body language and inserting an occasional comment or supportive murmur, we can let the speaker know that we are, indeed, an interested and concerned listener.

As Christians, we can bring an added dimension to our listening skills. Listening with compassion and patience is an art, as is listening without judging the other person. It's important to listen long enough to get the whole story and not to cut the other person off before he is finished speaking. That's where quiet waiting comes in handy. It's not easy to sit quietly, waiting to see if the other person has finished speaking. But listening is part of the communication process.

Inviting God to be the third party in a conversation keeps us focused and nonjudgmental towards the person who is speaking. Even if we've heard "the story" a million times before, listening with a Christian attitude may help us to keep our patience...and maybe even learn something we've never heard before!

Fall is the Time for Homecoming

by Nicole Bernal Ruiz

After nine long years away from the Grand Valley, I feel blessed to be back in Colorado, where I will be serving in two capacities, as *Director of Faith Formation* for IHM and *Co-Director of the Hispanic Affairs Pastoral Project (HAPP)* for our deanery. I have been working in parish ministry for the past five years, most recently as *Director of Hispanic Ministry* at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Frisco, Texas.

As I reflect upon my journey and this personal homecoming, I cannot help but think of the many people from IHM who have mentored me along the way, especially Bev Goodrich and Ann Peterson. I am honored to have the chance to return to the parish that has given me so many opportunities. Thanks to generous support from the *Sacomanno Higher Education Foundation*, the *St. Jude Scholarship Foundation*, the *Prinster Scholarship*, and the *Latin Anglo Alliance Scholarship*, I had the opportunity to pursue a BA at the University of Notre Dame in the Program of Liberal Studies. After graduating *cum laude* in 2004, I immediately began pursuing an MA in Theology from Notre Dame as part of the two-year ECHO Faith Formation Leadership Program, while serving as a parish Catechetical Apprentice. During the program, I met my husband Carlos, a native of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and we were married at St. Joseph Church in Grand Junction in 2007.

An interest in ministry was sparked 15 years ago singing with my father, Joe, at the Teen Mass. This love of music developed and I later joined the Notre Dame Folk Choir. I became aware of social justice issues as a teen while attending *Just Faith* with my mother, Miki, an interest that was enriched by participating in *Grand Valley Peace and Justice* mission trips to Mexico. These passions developed into a vocation, and I am honored to now serve our local church.

My responsibilities as Director of Faith Formation will include collaborating with Irene and Andrea to ensure that our youth and children receive excellent formation in the Catholic faith. I am responsible for Sacramental Preparation program for parents and children, as well. I am excited to support the wonderful RCIA team, and to assist with Fr. John's efforts to develop Adult Faith Formation in the parish. My responsibilities with HAPP will include working with the Board and Co-Director Ricardo Perez on projects within the Hispanic community in our deanery. HAPP collaborates with parishes to provide formation and leadership opportunities for the benefit of the Hispanic immigrant population in Western Colorado.

Returning home, I feel grateful and eager to belong to such a vibrant parish after having experienced church in so many other places. Immaculate Heart of Mary is a wonderful community, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve with its staff and parishioners!

Children's Faith Formation Corner

by Irene Fritzler

Calling ALL Kindergarteners!

We have space available for more kindergarten students! Our team of catechists for Wednesday night formation, will be teaching about Our Lord's great love for all of us & nature. Children will be doing fun crafts, learning songs and be a part of the annual Christmas pageant. Don't miss the chance for your child to be a part of this faith building class.

Advent

All children & youth are invited to help us decorate our church environment with tons of "Snowflakes"! this upcoming Advent season. Cut out your designs, glitter them or decorate them with all things silver. (No Gold) They will adorn the narthex during our Advent time of preparation for Jesus.

Keep someone in your prayers for each decorated snowflake you create.

Annual Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant and potluck supper this year will be on Wednesday, December 9th at 6 pm. Come and enjoy our production of "The Little Star: A Christmas Fantasy" by Georgene Meddows.

Youth News

by Andrea Stanton

Welcome to IHM Youth Ministry Team Members

New team members include: Jake Aubert, Shawn & Sarah Bell, Doug Gelpi, Heather Hughes, Mike Martin, Val Medina, Nicole Ruiz, and Anna Stout. This group will be working together to support and provide more opportunities for middle and high school youth in our parish!

Advent Festival

IHM Youth Ministry is hosting an Advent Festival on Sunday, December 6th from noon until 3 pm in the parish hall. This event is open to all families, and required for those involved in the confirmation program. Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Catholic Outreach food bank. **Registration is required by November 8th!**

We will start with lunch, and then move through four different stations based on the themes of Advent and Christmas, as well as service to others. Families will have an opportunity to roll out and bake gingerbread and/or sugar cookies (to donate to the Catholic Outreach soup kitchen) while learning about the services Catholic Outreach provides, including an opportunity to meet some residents of St. Benedict's Place. One station will explore the history and meaning behind Advent Wreaths, as well as have an opportunity to make one to take home. Another activity will be creating tied fleece blankets that will be donated to the Homeward Bound Emergency Shelter program at the end of December, when we host them here at IHM. Families will also read the biblical nativity stories, learn a bit more about them, and have an opportunity to create a mini-nativity scene to take home through an Angelo's Pottery-to-go project. We will wrap up the festival with time to decorate the cookies we baked, as well as share in dessert together.

Powderhorn Trip

The Middle and High School Youth Groups will be hosting our annual trip to ski or snowboard at Powderhorn on Monday, February 15th. Most valley schools have Teacher In-Service on this day. We will meet at Immaculate Heart of Mary at 8 am, and take a bus up to the mountain, returning that evening after the lifts close for the day. This event requires a permission slip. Watch the bulletin for more information in January!

El Salvador Mission Trip

Interested in participating in an educational service trip to El Salvador? Join the IHM Youth Group on a trip to our sister parish in El Espino, El Salvador from May 29 to June 6, 2010. Visit San Salvador, the cathedral, Oscar Romero's tomb, the Jesuit University and spend some time meeting those in our sister parish and working side by side on a project. \$1700 includes flight from GJ, all meals and transportation. Must be completing 6th grade or higher this year, and a practicing Catholic. Adults welcome to join as well. A \$250 deposit is due immediately, and plenty of fundraising opportunities are available to make this an affordable opportunity for anyone interested! Contact Andrea in the parish office (242-6121) or email astanton@ihmgjt.org for more information.

So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:17

Rent-A-Kid

Need odd jobs done around your house? Have a chore you don't want to do? Need a babysitter? Have a lot of leaves you don't want to rake? Hire a Rent-A-Kid! Youth participating in youth group and upcoming trips to El Salvador or World Youth Day are available to help! This fundraiser is run on a donation basis, and is underway! Please call at least a week in advance, and the more flexibility you have, the more likely we can help! Contact Andrea in the parish office to schedule someone to help you!

World Youth Day 2011

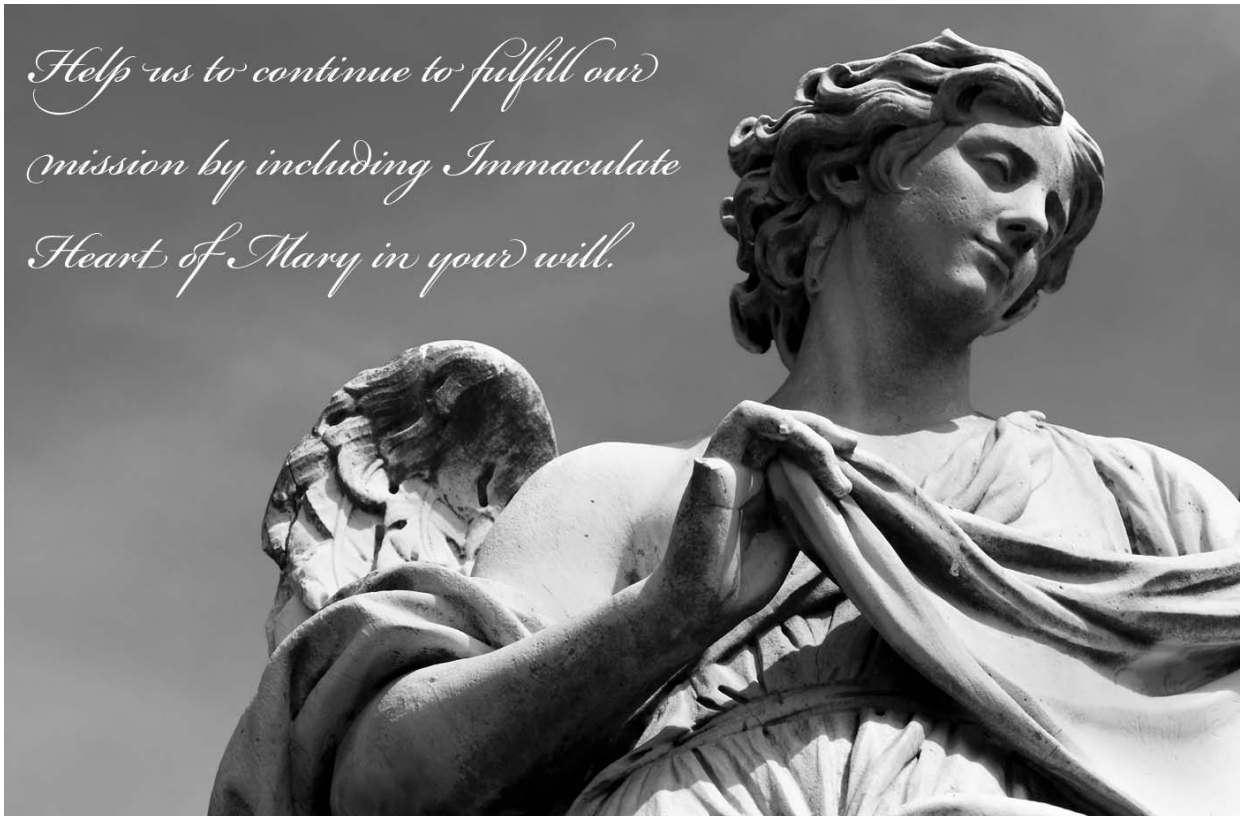
Want to participate in the next World Youth Day? There are two groups forming for this August 6th-22nd, 2011 pilgrimage through Spain and Portugal. Both groups are open to parishioners of any Catholic parish on the Western Slope of Colorado!

A youth pilgrimage, led by IHM Youth Minister Andrea Stanton, is for those ages 15-30ish who are currently in confirmation preparation, or have already been confirmed. This trip will be approximately \$4500, and includes travel from GJT, most meals, transportation, and WYD registration. We will see Barcelona, Lisbon, Fatima, participate in Days in the Diocese, and then World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. This group will be utilizing youth hostels and parish halls during the pilgrimage. While on the pilgrimage, this group will interact daily with a parallel group hosted by the Diocese of Pueblo, which will hopefully include our newly appointed Bishop, Rev. Fernando Isern! There are plenty of fundraising opportunities available to help with the cost!

A second pilgrimage is available for anyone else interested in attending World Youth Day, including adults and families with children of all ages. This group will fundraise and meet with the youth during preparations, but when on the pilgrimage, will be led by Fr. Edmundo Valera, of St. Joseph Parish. This \$5200 trip will begin in Paris, and then will travel to Barcelona, Lisbon, and Fatima before arriving at World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. This group will be utilizing budget hotels throughout the pilgrimage. This group is also welcome to participate in the fundraising opportunities.

A \$250 deposit is due immediately to join either group. Please contact Andrea for more information.

*Help us to continue to fulfill our
mission by including Immaculate
Heart of Mary in your will.*



Confirmation

by **Andrea Stanton**

Please pray for our high school youth participating in confirmation preparation:

1st Year Confirmation

Andy Bell
Josh Bell
Katie Berland
Laura Bloom
Katie Bremner
Ross Fischer
Katie Freeman
Juanita Galvan
Katherine Gibson
Rogelio Giner
Marcus Gutierrez
Briana Hendrickson
Anne Hughes
Lacey Kilgore
Kasey Kostelecky

Erin Lielkoks
Kelsi Lemarr
Erin Morgan
Cassandra Murillo
Mikayla O'Brien
Morgan Parrish
Michaela Popish
Hannah Shay
Morgan Shay
Joshua Shettler
Chelsea Shettler
Aaron Smith
Justin St. John
Martin Zupan
Nicole Zupan

2nd Year Confirmation

Lissie Bloom
Harrison Boardwine
Meghan Casey
Michael Chaffin
Cynthia Hendrickson
Anna McGinnis
Tori Perez
Emily Pipkin
Greg Tarman
Aubri Wiley
Schuyler Young

Sacramental Preparation

by **Irene Fritzler**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is about conversion, turning away from sin and turning toward God's great love. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps people grow in love, be more forgiving of others and practice virtues. God's grace strengthens people to make better choices and be more loving.

Reconciliation classes for parents & children begin on Monday at 6 pm.

October 26th, Nov. 2nd, 9th & 16th.

Reconciliation Retreat: Sunday, November 22nd from 4-6 pm.

Communal Penance: to be announced.

Attendance required for ALL sessions!

Who Am I?

by **Fr. John Farley**

During the course of one day, as you do your work, travel, speak with friends and co-workers, spend time with your family, cook, clean, get ready for bed – with every change of situation – allow the following questions to arise gently: Who am I? As you are driving to work, ask: Who am I? Ask the questions silently, and try to be aware of any ideas, words, feelings, or images that come forth in response. As you meet people and speak with them, reflect on this question: Who am I in this conversation? Am I the leader, the learner, the teacher, the inquisitor, the failure, the collaborator, the light of the world? Who am I? Then when you move to another interaction, repeat the question: Who am I in this task? An expert? A performer? A child of the spirit? A child in the sandbox? Who am I in this moment?

The point is to explore the breadth of who we are, and who we think we are, in our ordinary life. Watch how your sense of self changes. With each change, what do you notice? How do your words, hopes, dreams, or postures change when your identity shifts? Who, in each moment, do you think you are?

Then pray with Psalm 139 or Ephesians 2:1-10 or Isaiah 43:1-7 or Romans 8:28-39. Notice which words or descriptions seem most accurate, which seem to reflect more precisely your sense of your deepest nature.

The Sound of Music

by Jack Stuckenschneider

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish is in the process of purchasing the present piano which has been a part of our new church since 2000. This 1935 Mason & Hamlin piano has been graciously on loan to us by Ms. Veronica Cukro and is now available for \$10,000.00 dollars. Veronica and her family have been long time parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Mason & Hamlin line of pianos is considered among the best pianos available in the world. Similar pianos of this brand and age cost more than \$20,000.00 dollars. If purchased, an additional investment of \$1,000.00 would be used for some necessary care for the musical integrity of the piano, and an additional \$3,000.00 would be used to restore the wood and paint of the piano. These investments would provide us with an excellent piano at less cost than purchasing a new piano. New pianos of the same size of the present Mason & Hamlin would cost \$40,000.00 to as much as \$150,000.00.

Appropriate music and instruments which accompany our song at the liturgies are vital to our worship. "The sung expression of faith within liturgical celebrations strengthens our faith when it grows weak and draws us into the divinely inspired voice of the Church at prayer. Good music makes the liturgical prayers of the Christian community more alive and fervent so everyone can praise and beseech the Triune God more powerfully, more intently and more effectively." *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*.

With renewed interest in purchasing this fine instrument, we hope to have the funds to soon purchase this piano and insure quality music for our worship services and serve future generations of our Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.



Emergency Shelter Program a Great Success

by Bev Goodrich

In 2007 our local homeless shelter, Homeward Bound, was forced to turn away into the cold a record number of women, children and men due to lack of space. In the fall of 2008, those numbers increased as the nights grew colder, resulting in several homeless men freezing to death.

Those tragic and unnecessary deaths galvanized Homeward Bound to work with Grand Valley Peace & Justice to approach area churches to provide space to sleep homeless men, allowing more women and children to use the shelter and preventing any more deaths in our community. It had to be organized quickly – not an easy task – but 14 churches rose to the challenge. In a short time dozens of volunteers were recruited, then trained; cots and blankets were secured, transportation organized, and safe, warm shelter was provided for an average of 15 men per night from the first of December through March. Immaculate Heart hosted ESP from Feb. 22- March 7, joining First Presbyterian, St. Matthew's Episcopal, Koinonia Church, Unity Church, First Congregational, Valley Church, Sojourners, American Lutheran and First Baptist in providing shelter. St. Joseph's and St. Matthew's helped with transportation and Congregation Ohr Shalom, Sacred Heart, and Church of the Nativity Episcopal provided extra volunteers.

Here at Immaculate Heart we had 3 volunteer hosts each night and many parishioners brought in snacks and breakfast food for our guests. Our guests were carefully screened at the shelter before being brought over and many had steady jobs. But because of the high rents in our valley and the lack of affordable housing, these men haven't been able to find a place to live.

We've heard many wonderful stories from the volunteers about their experiences with the men from ESP. Parishioner Mike McInaney took the time to write down his reflections to share with the parish:

The timing was right, the task righteous, the need was apparent. When the call for volunteers came it couldn't have been at a better time. I needed a sacrifice for Lent. My parish had agreed to establish a refuge for some homeless men during the nights for a two-week period. We were to provide a place where these men could sleep, read, or watch TV, have something to eat or drink. In the morning we would start them off with coffee, juice and a light breakfast. To see to these tasks the parish needed some people there to act as hosts. So, I thought that I could do that and I volunteered. I spent four nights doing just that. In retrospect I'm very glad that I did as it gave me many insights into the plight of our local homeless population. As I engaged these men I was struck with the thought that but for the grace of God I could be in their shoes. My problems became petty in comparison. I considered my own fortunes as very grand indeed. As I pondered the whys and hows of it, I came to realize that to a great degree it was a matter of personal choices. I thought about my own choices and how I had made some bad choices by ignoring God's graces. So, I thought, how wonderful it is that His Grace had led me to volunteer, as it gave me an opportunity of face to face Christian service and it caused me to reflect on my own life. It was quite a fitting result for the Lenten season.

We've also heard from the guests themselves – stories of deep appreciation for the opportunity to sleep in an uncrowded and quiet place, of feeling safe and a part of something.

Thank you Mike and all of the volunteers who made the Emergency Shelter Program at IHM such a success. We look forward to being able to provide shelter and care next winter when Homeward Bound will resume the ESP program in area churches.

Italy & Oberammergau, Germany

You are invited to join Fr. Jim Plough and company on an 11- Day Pilgrimage Tour to Italy & Germany, including Rome, the Vatican, Assisi, Florence, Milan, Fussen, Munich and attendance at the live "Passion Play" in Oberammergau, Germany. Performed once every ten years over several centuries (this being the 41st. performance) the tour continues on its spiritual journey with more than 2,000 actors, singers and instrumentalists involved in the elaborate and beautiful display of Christ's Passion.

Be Thankful for God's Companionship

by Fr. John Farley

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, take time to think about your reasons for being thankful. How deep are they? Perhaps you will want to take this one season to accept more fully God's companionship as your richest possession. Worship Him with a thankful heart.

Fill the Shelves

by Bev Goodrich

In this troubled economy many families are having a hard time making ends meet. As always, Catholic Outreach is on the front lines dealing with people in crisis as a result of the economic meltdown and the Soup Kitchen in particular has seen a tremendous increase in clients over the past months. One of the biggest increases has been families with children coming for a hot meal.

Community support for the Soup Kitchen and Catholic Outreach continues to be strong, but the sheer numbers of people needing food assistance is straining the capacity of the Soup Kitchen.

IHM's Christian Service Ministry's Advent Project will seek to ensure that the soup Kitchen is well stocked. **FILL THE SHELVES!** Will help to keep staple foods on hand for all who need them.

Each weekend in Advent will feature a particular food item for parishioners to bring. Collection baskets will be in the narthex against the wall next to the chapel. You can help **FILL THE SHELVES** by bringing the appropriate food items on the designated weekends:

1ST WEEKEND IN ADVENT: Nov. 28-29

CEREAL WEEKEND – please bring boxed breakfast cereal for the Soup Kitchen.

2ND WEEKEND IN ADVENT: Dec. 5-6

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY WEEKEND – please bring peanut butter & jelly for the Soup Kitchen.

3RD WEEKEND IN ADVENT: Dec. 12-13

RICE & BEANS WEEKEND – please bring rice and canned pinto beans for the Soup Kitchen.

4TH WEEKEND IN ADVENT: Dec. 19-20

SOUP & CHILI WEEKEND- please bring canned soups and canned chili for the Soup Kitchen.

Feeding the hungry is basic to our faith, and together we can make a difference for many families in this community.

Come, you who are blessed by my Father . . . For I was hungry and you gave me food . . .

Matthew 25:34,35a

Holy Family Catholic School News

by Ann Ashwood

When I was young and trying to impress my mother with something I was going to do, she used to say, “The proof is in the pudding.” In other words - actions speak louder than words. I’ve learned that both these old saws are true.

Many of you have made extra sacrifices these past few months to enable Holy Family to enroll all students whose families value Catholic education with its high religious, moral, and academic standards. Know that your dollars are being well spent.

Each year during the third week of school all 3rd through 8th graders take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), a reputable national assessment tool. We spend the time (almost a week) and the money (\$1200) for three reasons.

- 1.) Our test results help guide our instruction for the year, i.e., if a class is a bit weak in math facts – that’s where we concentrate.
- 2.) Individual test results allow us to monitor student growth over time; has a child learned a year’s worth of material following a year’s worth of school?
- 3.) Our composite scores enable us to mark the school’s progress in comparison to 1000’s of other schools across America. How well are we doing our job?

Historically, HFCS students perform well above average on ITBS. Our year-to-year data attests to the fact that the longer a student stays at Holy Family, the higher their score. Our 3rd graders perform at or a little above the rest of the country’s 3rd graders – debunking the myth that we “cherry pick” only the best and the brightest. Our demographic is typical of most local elementary schools. As a whole, classes progress, scoring a grade or two above their peers in 4th and 5th grades.

At middle school we see amazing growth. This year’s average 6th grader performed at the 8th grade 6th month in Reading, 8th grade, 9th month in Language Arts, and 7th grade 7th month in Math.

The average 7th grader scored 9th grade 3rd month in Reading, 10th grade 7th month in Language Arts, and 9th grade 6th month in Math.

8th graders blew the top off the tests! 12th grade, 1st month in Reading, college level in Language Arts, and 12th grade 3rd month in Math.

My mother was right; the proof **is** in the numbers.

Friends, with your help, and the teamwork of our parents, we are doing our job and doing it well. Our graduates excel in high school academically, socially, athletically. They attend and graduate from the country’s top colleges and universities. While across the country Catholic schools are closing, our enrollment stays virtually unchanged. Our goal is to expand to 9th grade in 2010. Catholics across this Valley appreciate our heritage of excellence. Celebrate our success! The proof is in the numbers. We are grateful for your continuing financial and prayer support. May God continue to bless each of you.

First Quarter Financial Report

by Mary Novotny

Our first quarter figures indicate that we are on track with our budget for the fiscal year. Our expenses directly related to our mission total \$119,969 or 52% of our expenditures for the quarter. Even with the very austere budget for the current fiscal year we continue to try to serve the needs of our parish and community.

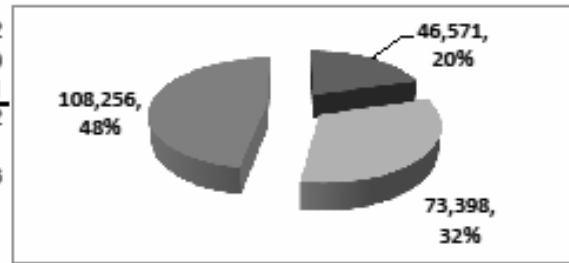
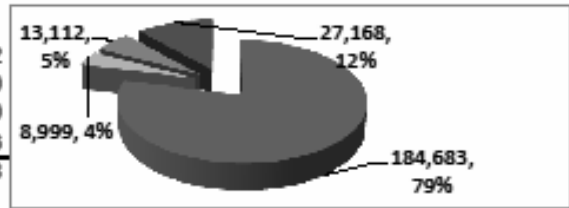
As the end of the calendar year approaches, and you consider additional charitable giving, please keep our parish in mind. Donations in support of our parish mission reflect the love and hope of Jesus Christ in our community.

Also, we are closer than we have ever been to meeting the parish assessment for the Diocesan Ministry Fund. With two months left in the 2009 campaign, four thousand dollars in additional pledges will put us over the top in meeting our commitment to our Bishop and diocese.

Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners are amazingly generous with their time and treasure. Thank you for your continued generous support of our parish.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Giving Statement For the Period 07/2009 - 09/2009

Giving	Actual	Budget
Offertory	184,683	861,032
Designated Gifts	8,999	52,270
Other Gifts	13,112	48,400
Misc. Income	27,168	147,316
	233,962	1,109,018
Investments		
Our Gifts to Others	46,571	236,852
Parish Life & Spirituality	73,398	387,899
Facilities & Administration	108,256	496,861
	228,225	1,101,612
Net Giving	5,736	7,406



Act with kindness toward your servant; teach me your laws. I am your servant; give me discernment that I may know your decrees.

Psalms 119:124-125

Pope Names New Bishop for Pueblo

Pope Names New Bishop for Pueblo

Bishop-elect Fernando Isern to succeed Bishop Arthur Tafoya

Born Sept. 22, 1958, in Havana, Fr. Fernando Isern moved to Venezuela with his family at the age of 5. When he was 9, they moved to Miami where he attended public elementary school and a private high school, Champagnat. (He still celebrates the school's graduation Mass each year.)

He studied marketing and international business at Miami Dade College and Florida International University and worked for a bank until "a gradual search for answers" led him to the priesthood. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Miami on April 16, 1993, and has been at Our Lady of Lourdes since June 2002, taking over as pastor in March 2003.

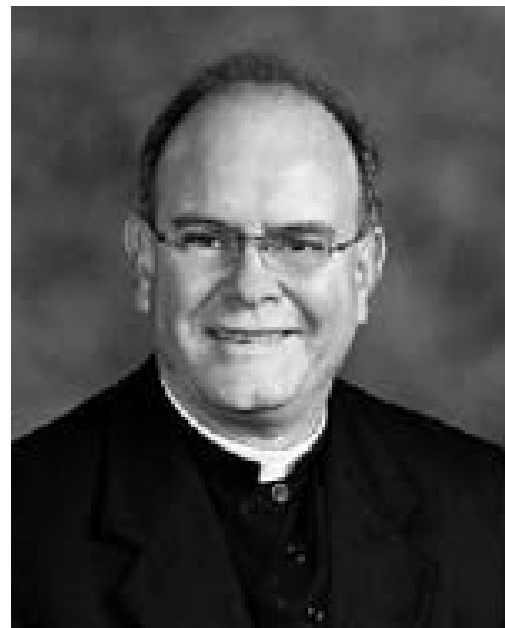
According to the Most Reverend John C. Favalora, Archbishop of Miami, "Bishop-elect Isern brings to the good people of southern Colorado a wealth of experience.... (he) has won the respect of the clergy, religious and laity as he has demonstrated his good priestly leadership in all of his pastoral assignments. As pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, he administers one of the largest parishes in the Archdiocese, a community quite diverse, a community whose spirituality and service are well-known and admired. In addition, he serves very capably as Supervising Principal of Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School. "

Statement From Bishop-Elect Fernando Isern:

"Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has entrusted me with the care of the people of the Diocese of Pueblo. We commend ourselves to his prayers. I wish to thank His Excellency Arthur Tafoya, for his many years of exemplary service to the Diocese of Pueblo and for his warm and fraternal welcome to me. I thank Archbishop Favalora, his Auxiliaries, priests and religious for their example and fraternity during my years as a priest of the Archdiocese of Miami. I am especially grateful for having been entrusted as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish. I have been able to experience the wonderful vibrancy and love of this Archdiocese in the commitment of its laity. As President of Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School and Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School, I have seen the wonderful contribution that Catholic education makes to the Church. The **love of Christ has urged us** in a variety of other ways and ministries in the Church, for example, detention ministry and I have, therefore, adopted the Episcopal motto, "Caritas Christi Urget Nos" (2 Cor 5, 14).

As Bishop of the Diocese Pueblo, it is a father's love that unites me to its laity, priests and religious. The diocese encompasses Southern Colorado, an area with great natural beauty and diversity. Its people are rightfully proud of their history and cultural contributions. It is the love of Christ that urges us to now embrace each one as our own and to entrust ourselves to the generosity and hospitality of its people, as we recite the beautiful prayer of St. Theresa of Avila, whose feast we celebrate today, "Let nothing disturb thee; nothing frighten thee. All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Nothing is wanting to him who possesses God. God alone suffices."

Bishop elect Isern will be installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Pueblo on December 10th in Pueblo.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

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Our Parish Family is Ever-Changing....

WARM GREETINGS...and love in Christ are extended to all our newly registered parishioners and their families: Ed & Doris Baal, Ellise Basch, Christy Borunda & Obri Orozco, Adam & Melynda Brown, Christine Carro, Donna & Charles Carrocito, Sr., Francisco Giner & Christina Serna, Charlotte Gleason, Zeila & Russell Hanna, Holly Kesel, Niki Kissner & Rob Bishop, William & Mary Kohl, Thomas Leitner & Kahli Fowler, Amanda Liberto & Jason Smith, Thomas & Delane Liberto, Mindy & Jeremy McCurter, Shawn & Shawna Morrison, Carrol Multz, Molly & Eli Nykamp, Anna Petranovich, Amity Poglajen, Leeray & Susan Smith, Jose & Blanca Vargas, Luis Vasquez, Cory Weber & Kimberly Lake, Marcus & Virginia Wettstein, Tony & Mariasol Zupan.

CONGRATULATIONS...and welcome to the following who recently joined our parish family through baptism: Elias Rich, Finn VanMeter, Olivia Williams, Maddox Rewold, Cara Potter, William Flanagan, Maggie Silzell, Benjamin Silzell, Isabelle Showman, Jordan Findley, Logan Walsh, Zane Ramirez.

BEST WISHES...and congratulations to those who recently celebrated the sacrament of marriage in our parish: Brandon Lee Wolff & Rebecca Damato, Anthony John Alaire & Brooke Carolyn Middleton.

WITH SYMPATHY...we remember and pray for those who recently died: Terrence O'Brian, Wallace Staples, Helen White, Arvin White, Bonnie Merlino, Porfirio Sanchez, Louise Sutrina.