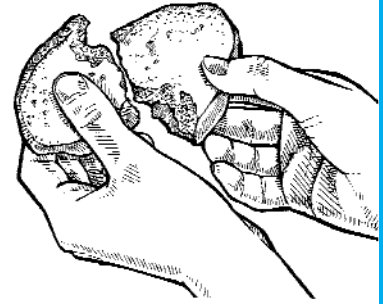


# BREAKING BREAD



## Servant-Leaders

A Deacon is ordained to be a servant-leader. This leadership is exercised under the authority of the diocesan bishop, and is conferred by the Holy Spirit at ordination. They do not get paid for the time they give. We asked our deacons to share a few thoughts about the ministry they love.

Gene has served Good Shepherd for 20 years and Sandy has served us for 5 years. We are a blessed community and we thank them both.



Deacon Gene Christensen

### Deacon Gene Christensen

My first application for the Diaconate was turned down. Two years later I was asked to reapply and was accepted. The road of life surely is paved with turns, bumps, pot holes and stretches of smooth sailing.

In 1990 I was ordained a deacon. In the twenty years since then my life has been filled with joys and sorrows. I've had many opportunities to deepen my faith and to grow spiritually.

I have been privileged to help prepare young couples for the sacrament of marriage and help families prepare for the baptism of their child. I have been present when families are most vulnerable – at the death of a loved one.

All deacons must be able to preach and all must choose an area of Pastoral Ministry. Both caused me a great deal of angst. Preaching the Good News is a privilege and responsibility I never take for granted. Ministering to our sick and dying parishioners frightened me more than you can imagine. So I knew that was what I had to do if I was to grow as a servant of God's people.

I thank God every day that I have had the opportunity to serve the community of Good Shepherd for the past twenty years.

- Gene

### Deacon Sandy Sites

You know what your deacon is up to when the deacon chair is occupied at Mass. When asked to share what it has been like to be deacon in my first 5 years since ordination, I thought you might be interested in what this deacon is up to when the chair is empty.

I have had a truly spectacular 5 year experience of "diakonia" within and outside the parish. For example, my mentor and soul mate Robin and I spent almost a year in London. While there we were able to function as deacon and deacon wife at St. Winefride Parish in Wimbledon. Here at Good Shepherd I have been fortunate to be involved with you in a variety of ways: as a vision team member for Destination Justice and Experience of God, working on Faith in Our Future, researching and maintaining our Voices for Justice website.

Representing the parish outside our walls, I have served by providing Sunday Communion service and weekday bible study at our Waukesha County jail facilities, and assist in establishing a community organizing group in Waukesha County – Common Ground. I also have gotten involved in the Deacon Senate for the Archdiocese and at the moment am breaking open with the Bishops how the deacon community of our archdiocese can best serve the people of God.

Know that I pray for this spirit-filled community every day.

- Sandy



Deacon Sandy Sites

## Combined Collections

### Catholic Charities



Along with the many worthy ministries done by Catholic Charities is their Social Worker Outreach connection to the vulnerable and poor who need consultation and education to fill the gaps in social service networks. Among their many success stories is this one about "Robert".

Robert is a 70 year- old widower living by himself in Milwaukee. He has very limited reading abilities and is a trusting and giving individual who was being taken advantage of financially by his former "payee" who should have helped him manage his monthly Social Security income.

Robert does not take medications and is able to live on his own, and because of this, he does not qualify for any Family Care services through Milwaukee County. Sadly, he was evicted from his low-income senior apartment after failing to consistently pay rent.

Robert was referred to Catholic Charities Outreach Services by his parish priest. With help from Catholic Charities he began to distance

himself from his payee who did not properly manage his money and took advantage of him. A report was made to Social Security to investigate the misuse of funds by the former payee. Additionally with help from a friend, Robert was able to locate and secure housing at a low-income senior apartment facility.

Catholic Charities further assisted Robert to get a new bank account, create a monthly budget, ensure bills and rent got paid on time, apply for food stamps, apply for additional medical insurance and ultimately sign up with Aurora Family Service's rep payee program.

To date, Robert has paid his rent on time, has adequate income for food and basic needs. Catholic Charities Outreach continues to work with him to help him meet his own basic needs.

Would you like to help someone like Robert? Catholic Charities works with parishes to help educate parishioners about the services they offer. Volunteers are always welcome!

### Workcamp: Serving in Christ's Name



Spiritual growth happens when students serve people in Christ's name. They grow in faith and character – and have loads of fun at the same time.

This year we will visit New Castle, PA, from July 17 to 24. Lawrence County Social Services has a three-and-a-half-year-long list of homes that need to be repaired or upgraded. With your assistance, we can take two years off that list. Your donations will light up the hearts of many people.

From Workcamp 2009, Erin Birschbach says, "Workcamp experience taught me so much about

being a Christian and how much helping someone can make you smile." And an anonymous resident wrote, "All we ever read about in the newspaper or see on the television are the teens involved in crime. I was shocked to see so many young people willing to help me with chores that I am no longer capable of doing myself. I can't believe they actually raised the money to buy paint and everything. They not only gave my house new life, they gave my faith new life, too. May God bless each and everyone that came to Sullivan to help."

May God bless our youth, their residents and the people of Good Shepherd who make this possible!

### Solidarity with Ellacuria Continues



In a spirit of solidarity, we have had a sister parish relationship with our brothers and sisters in Ellacuria, El Salvador, for 20 years. The community of 180 families was named after Fr. Ignacio Ellacuria, one of six Jesuits killed in El Salvador in 1989, along with their housekeeper and her daughter.

Last fall, five parishioners visited Ellacuria, celebrating 20 years of their return from the refugee camp and of our sister relationship with them. A gift of \$5,000 was presented to them, from donations from our last Combined Collection and our fair trade coffee sales.

Some of our gift has been used to repair a

corn grinder, fix bathrooms in the church, present anti-delinquency workshops for the youth (gangs are a big problem in El Salvador) and buy fuel for transporting patients to the hospital in Chalatenango. Other needs for which the remaining money might be used include: fixing broken water pipes, getting a container to collect water, repairing the car which serves as an ambulance for the community and buying a bell for the church. (Good Shepherd provided funds to build the church.)

Our parish Central America Study Committee not only facilitates directly supporting our sister parish, but also strives to learn about, educate and support regional issues in El Salvador.

## Newly Received and Fully Initiated

*This is only the beginning of the journey and it is so incredible already. I would like to thank the people who have been involved through the whole process, as well as, the church and the community. Without you it would not have been as complete as it was.*

*The experiences involved throughout have impacted my life in ways I never thought possible. I'm looking forward to continuing my journey through life as I do now day by day.*

—Brad Eesley

*My faith is growing and my life has changed for the better since I found my home in the Catholic Church. It was a journey that I'm very grateful for having had.*

*Thanks to everyone that was involved. God has graced me through prayer and the teachings of the church with a true understanding of what Jesus did for all of us and the truth of the Catholic Christian faith.*

—Megan Ryddner



Megan Ryddner was received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, confirmed with fiance Brad Eesley, and celebrated Eucharist.

## Immigration Reform and Good Shepherd Parish: Polarization or Brother/Sisterhood?

The Immigration Study Group, while talking with parishioners during the recent postcard signing on Saturday and Sunday, March 6 & 7, conversed with members of our parish community who are opposed to immigration legislative reform. While the Study Group holds people of both opinions in its membership, it is comfortable with supporting legislative reform. We want to assure those who don't agree, that we respect your views and your right to hold them.

We also feel that we do not want to be a committee which causes division in our parish community. We certainly want our point of view to be understood, but in the spirit of brotherly/sisterly caring for each other, we are thinking of having a program of "listening circles," or "peace circles" to allow for dialogue on this issue. The circles allow each person to

freely speak his/her opinion, and be heard. We would not aim for consensus or "conversion" to one side or the other, but only for listening to each other.

In connection to having circles, we think a "Question Box," surfacing questions about immigration might also help understanding on both sides. The questions could be a basis for a panel or talk on immigration, or might also serve in the conduct of the circles.

What do you think? Please let us know if you have other (and perhaps better) ways to prevent polarization and promote Gospel brother/sister relationships. (The Immigration Study Group has a mailbox in Daniels Hall, or communication with us can also be given or mailed to the parish office.)

The 476 signed postcards were delivered to the Archdiocese on Sunday, March 28, at a ceremony

presided over by Bishop Skiba and will become part of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan campaign for immigration reform, and, indeed, part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops support for change in legislation.

Thank you to all who participated!

**"While the Study Group holds people of both opinions in its membership, it is comfortable with supporting legislative reform."**



## MEET OUR Pastoral Council



Mary Oswald

**April 5, 2010**

### Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

There is currently a surplus for the year. We will have a better idea about how the year will finish after the month of April.

Preliminary estimates for the budget for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year show a projected deficit. The biggest increases include a three percent salary raise for the staff and a 16 percent estimated increase in health insurance costs. Any surplus for this year could be applied to next year's budget to offset the estimated deficit.

Next year, representatives of each committee will be asked to come to a pastoral council meeting to present their budgets. For this year, it was suggested that each liaison should discuss budgets with their committee and report back at the next

Pastoral Council meeting.

Beth handed out lists of potential new council members nominated during balloting in March. Council members were asked to call people to inform them of their nomination and provide information about serving on the council.

The council is still in need of one or two persons to act as recording secretaries to take minutes at the council meetings.

Father Mich indicated that he thought the level of involvement and preparation during this Lenten season was particularly inspiring. He noted the Cluster Mission and the "Were You There" Passion play were significant.

Father brought up the idea of Good Shepherd having

its own response to the recent scandals involving the molestation cases in Wisconsin. It was suggested that there be an open, as well as, an anonymous forum held at Good Shepherd to discuss the sex scandal issue.

At the last cluster council meeting, the question was posed as to whether GS (also St. James) has a positive attitude toward Catholic grade school education, and could we back (i.e. take ownership in) St. Mary's School becoming the "Menomonee Falls Catholic School"? The Pastoral Council discussed what would be involved in that kind of commitment and decided that further information was needed to form an opinion on the subject.



## Our Priests' Anniversaries



*Fr. Mich and Fr. Jose are surrounded by well-wishers at a May 1st anniversary celebration of their 40th and 25th year (respectively) of ordination to the priesthood. In keeping with their international travel experiences, parishioners brought finger-foods representative of a variety of countries around the world.*

## Children Celebrate First Communion at Good Shepherd

by Lorrie Maples



On rehearsal day, the communicants worked together to bake the bread for their First Eucharist celebration, and each child took a mini-loaf home.

Twenty-three children celebrated their first communion this Easter season at Good Shepherd. They prepared for the day by attending Mass and formation classes with their parents for at least two years. They learned the stories, explored the symbols, and experienced the rites and prayers of the Mass.

The children expressed their desire to receive communion, they learned how to receive communion and they came to understand, at their own level of understanding, that the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the celebration of the Eucharist. With great joy and thanksgiving, the children came with family and friends to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

The children entered into the celebration of the Eucharist in a special way at Good Shepherd. The children joined the liturgical ministers in the entrance procession. They surrounded the baptismal font where they were invited to put their hands into the water to remember that they were

baptized into the Body of Christ. They carried candles during the procession and proclamation of the Gospel as a symbol that it is by the light of Christ that we live.

Children brought forward the gifts of bread and wine, and the gifts of food and money as an offering. During the Eucharistic Prayer the chil-

dren were invited to surround the altar to join in the Eucharistic prayer in a close and special way. They were sent by their parents to join the parish community as they received Holy Communion for the first time.

At the end of Mass, the children led everyone out of the church to love and serve God. Following Mass, there was a reception where families and friends could have refreshments, take pictures, and share stories.

A week after their first communion, the children and their parents came together to share the experience. The children were very excited about the sacrament and looked forward to receiving communion again and again. The parents expressed a joy in having walked with their children through the process of formation. They, too, had grown in their understanding of the Mass and in their relationship with their children.



*“ ... and they came to understand, ..., that the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the celebration of the Eucharist.”*



Reece Brantly

Aidan Bray

Trevan Edwards

Gretchen Gagnon

Timothy Haspel

Tyler Herzberg

Dylan Hunt

Liam Kasper

Edwin Legall, Jr

Mitchell Mahnke

Konnor Meinen

Simon Mohar

Nicole Parmenter

Nicholas Pecunia

Rachel Pierce

Josiah Ramsey

Bennett Redfern

Isabella Seston

William Stuart

Sophia Tautges

Erin Toboyek

Eileen Tocco

Jordan Vastag

## Wellness Weekend: Check your blood pressure often

Submitted by Laverne Schoonover, RN



Blood Pressure checks are offered once a month in the Chapel after all Masses and before the Saturday 4:30pm Mass.

If you knew that taking some time after Mass to have your blood pressure checked could have an influence on your health, would you do it?

Hypertension or high blood pressure is known as “the silent killer” for a reason. Some people are not even aware they have a problem with it until they have it checked. There are no symptoms, but in the meantime havoc may be happening in your heart, brain and blood vessels.

Hypertension is a sign that something is wrong. It can happen to younger people as well as when we get older. Good news is that it can be controlled with proper medical care.

So take the time for our dedicated health professionals to “check you out” once a month in the Chapel after all the Masses and before the Saturday 4:30 Mass.



**“Hypertension or high blood pressure is known as ‘the silent killer’ for a reason.”**

To further the spiritual growth of the Good Shepherd Community by providing an inspirational view of parish life.

## YOUR GREEN CORNER

by Mary Kult

### Water Shortage in our Future

Ecologists have noted that within our children’s lifetime there will be a water shortage. What can we do now?

- Drought proof your garden by mulching with straw, wood-chips, grass clippings or pulverized leaves.
- A shower uses less water than a bath and limit the showering to 5 minutes. Use an egg timer and make this a fun race for the kids. Consider using a hand-held shower.
- Wash your car with a bucket and sponge and rinse with water from your rain barrel. Rainwater is softer than tap water and breaks down dirt and grease more effectively.
- Use a watering can versus a sprinkler, which directs the water at the base rather than showering your neighbors driveway. If you use a hose, fit a trigger nozzle so you can shut off the flow when carrying from one plant to the next.



- Wait until your washing machine is full, so as to make the most out of each drop of water.
- Don’t be a water importer; try to kick the bottled water habit. Keep a pitcher of tap water in the refrigerator. When chilled it’s almost indistinguishable from mineral water.
- If you are worried about water quality, invest in a filtration system for your kitchen faucet.

Taken from “1001 Ways to Save the Earth” By Joanna Yarrow



**Rayah Le Polk**, daughter of Samuel and Michelle Polk  
**Pierson Louis Mayo**, son of Kyle and Tracy Mayo



- **Sam and Shelly Polk**, **Rayah 4 months old**
- **Tracy and Kyle Mayo**, **Parker age 3, Pierson 5 months old**
- **Larry Klein Jr.**, son of Larry Klein
- **Greg Christensen**, Son of Deacon Gene and special friend to Meriel
- **Ron Abram**

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

## BREAKING BREAD

[www.mygoodshepherd.org](http://www.mygoodshepherd.org)

N88 W17658 Christman Road  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
Phone: (262) 255-2035

Mark Steimle .....Editor  
Meriel Christensen .....Staff Writer  
Mary Ann Erdtmann .....Staff Writer  
Bryan Ramsey .....Staff Writer  
Jeanine Rapant .....Photography