

St. Ann WATCH NEWS

Summer Edition – 2009

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This and that from the President:

The WATCH Board continues to be active and busy. Board members have taken an active role in helping form the structure for the care and development of the Parish Center. Board members were also very active in helping with Father Terry's Jubilee celebration. Your donations and support for the "nut sales" have made it possible for us to purchase needed items for the hall; such as a microphone and speaker system, a portable stage and numerous kitchen items. Because of your generosity we were able to contribute to the cost of the jubilee celebration.

We continue to be mindful of activities that will strengthen our communal bonds and help to deepen our spirituality. This year after WATCH #12 we reintroduced WATCH reunion, an opportunity for the participants to come together once again to talk about their journey, pray together, laugh and have fun, while strengthening their bond as a community of love. We look to continue reunions and perhaps broaden the concept.

In the fall we will be hosting a "Fanning of the Flame," on October 17th in the Parish Center. The theme will be "Loving and Forgiving." If the title doesn't entice you how about these talks: "Burden Be Gone," "In The Box," and "Love 'Em Like

Jesus." It will be another "good" one. We hope to see you there. It is such a special way to renew your spirit and spend some time with friends you might not otherwise see. We are always interested in your ideas, so talk to us!

In Christ,
Sherry Killian

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WATCH Reflection from Deacon Steve

We are well into the Baseball season, and I am wondering how many of you know that Baseball is mentioned in the Bible? And here it is; Genesis 1:1, "In the big inning."

Now that we got that out of the way, there are several passages from St. Paul to the Corinthians that have a lot of meaning, but the one I am going to focus on is in Chapter 12; "One Body, Many Parts."

Chapter 12: 12-13; "As a body is one though it has many parts, and the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit." We probably should look at Verse 11: "But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes." This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit, not the believer, who decides who gets what gift. We all have a tendency to believe we are in charge of our life, what we do and what we want to do, but it is God who is in charge, not us. The same can be said of our gifts. God gives each of us different gifts and we are expected to use them to the best of our ability.

In verse 12, Paul embarks on his body analogy. He is trying to explain that we all have a variety of gifts, but we also only have one body, and at the same time we are a part of the "Body of Christ." Everyone who is a part of the "Body of Christ" has different gifts and we are expected to use them, not let them hide under a bushel basket. Paul, in most of his writings is constantly urging the people to step out of their comfort zone and use their God given talents for the good of the whole community, not just themselves. That whole community is the "Body of Christ, the Church."

In verse 13, Paul is telling us that we are all baptized into one body, the "Body of Christ," and receive the Holy Spirit. There are no Christians without the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism and when we receive the Spirit we are then pushed to use the "Gifts of the Spirit," for our good as well as the good of the "Body of Christ." Our body is not just an organ; it is a combination of different parts and all are

necessary for us to function. Paul is stressing unity, but that unity has variety and diversity for it takes all kinds of parts to make up a body. And how true is this in the Church with varying opinions about almost everything, but that difference should focus on being one in the "Body of Christ."

Please use your "gifts" for the benefit of the "Whole Body of Christ," and we will all be better for it.

God bless you.
The Good Deac

Welcome Candidates of WATCH #12

Bonnie Beachler, Jennifer Brian, Shirley Carrol, Nancy Dial, Cynthia Eakins, Carol Holmes, Jackie Hunt, Sam Joseph, Connie Kisse, Margaret Langer, Sue Lecount, Hobert Little, Valeria Lord, Renee Maroun, Joe Neubauer, Lindy Routt, Paul Samonski, Crystal Wilson

“There’s no place like home. There’s no place like home.” Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz may have said these words, but they were the sentiments of all involved in the February Fanning the Flames and March WATCH weekend at the new parish hall. It is a wonderful facility that we hope to enjoy for years to come. Being able to host these events is extremely rewarding and enjoyable. Previously, these events would have been held at Neighborhood House down the street from St. Ann. The new parish hall feels like home already. As with any new home, it takes a little while before you figure out all the nuances of the place. Despite some of these growing pains, the events were a big success. Seeds were planted, fertilized, and are blooming into beautiful spirit filled flowers. Hosting these events allows all of us to grow not only in our relationships with others but also in our relationship with Christ. “For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.” (Matt 18:20) Each time we come together in community, God is with us. As our WATCH family grows, may our new home be the site of spiritual growth and renewal.

Ellen Tallon

Book Reviews

Same Kind of Different as Me

Author - Ron Hall & Denver Moore

This is an inspirational story of diversity, faith, hope and love. "Same Kind of Different as Me" is a true story. It is about two of the unlikeliest of friends that only God could have brought together – a poor black man who is a homeless drifter and a wealthy art dealer who travels internationally. These two gentlemen share their moving story in tandem – courageously revealing their inner thoughts and dreams. This book deeply touched me.

Denver Moore is a poor black man who grew up picking cotton in the south. I thought slavery was abolished a long time ago but discovered that it continued to exist on the southern plantations in the form of share cropping. Denver eventually got on a freight train and became a homeless drifter. In the mid 1960s, he broke the law and was sentenced to hard labor for ten years. After his release, he spent the next 22 years homelessly wandering the streets of Ft. Worth, Texas.

In 1998, he met Miss Debbie and his life was never the same. She is a woman of great faith and unconditional love who felt God had called her to work at the Union Gospel Mission. She brought her husband, Ron Hall, with her and they regularly started volunteering to serve the homeless. She had dreams about the mission and about a man that would change the city. One day, she saw this man – Denver Moore – and encouraged her husband, initially reluctant, to get to know him.

This began their journey of friendship – two men who lived worlds apart. They grow in respect, love and admiration as each teaches the other about life and faith. Deborah is diagnosed with cancer and they share their pain as she slips away. It is Denver who picks up her torch to help the homeless of Ft. Worth. Ron and Denver share their story with others today. When asked if they had any other thoughts they'd like to share, each added the following:

"Ron: Most of our thoughts were included and the book was never meant to be a self-help or instructional book. Ours is merely a story about how a Godly woman with a dream followed it to the point where a city was changed. Denver and I are not preachers or teachers, but sinners with a story to tell. Denver: I didn't have any thoughts for this book, I just told my story. I just want to encourage folks to be more like Miss Debbie."

I laughed and cried and was riveted to each page. God's importance is never minimized as we are

shown about serving Him and loving those that have fallen through the cracks. This book tells it like it is and is truly an inspiration for all of us.

Review by Denise Henderson

Three Cups of Tea - One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time

Author - Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

From the back cover: "Here (in Pakistan and Afghanistan), we drink three cups of tea to do business; the first you are a stranger, the second you become a friend, and the third, you join our family, and for our family, we are prepared to do anything - even die."

This book opened my eyes to people of "another" World, a World that had only been presented to me in small pieces, through TV and News Reports. I had somehow missed the issue of PARADE published in 2001, I believe, when Greg's story was picked up for its uniqueness for human interest. Greg's story begins in 1993. He and David, as mountaineers, were attempting to climb the famous K2 Mountain. Greg lost the main path, and wandered into an unfamiliar part of the mountainous territory, weak and tired. He stumbled into a very caring group of families who nurse him back to health. He observed the poverty surrounding them, and the children using the earth and sticks to write their lessons - no classrooms and not much of anything else. When he is ready to leave, he promises to return to build a school. He keeps his promise, and through dogged determination and loving compassion, he is responsible for 54 other schools, many of which were for the benefit of young girls, and the women who also needed education.

The ten years spent between Montana, with his wife Tara and their daughter Amira and the many families in Pakistan and Afghanistan, are filled with dangers from the Taliban attacks and the forbidding terrain surrounding these territories.

The section of photographs is special, bringing into focus the main characters in this stirring drama. I would recommend this book to every "people-person," and for those who wish they knew how to be.

Review by Sister Roberta Houlihan, CSJ

Music Reviews

Take "6"

Artist - Take "6"

Has anyone besides me heard of "Take 6?" I'm not trying to tell you to do something, that's the name of the group. "Take 6" is (or are) a (or an) a cappella group. That means, no music accompaniment, just vocals. Six part harmony to be exact. Although they have produced some twenty+ albums / CD's, not all are a cappella; however, the first and my personal favorite is. Oddly enough, the name of the first album is the same name as the band name, "Take 6." I cannot say enough about this CD. The lyrics are all biblical based and absolutely beautiful. The singing is both soulful and tender. If you like beautiful harmony, you need not look any further. If you prefer middle-aged, balding, white guys with acoustical guitars singing songs for which you can barely distinguish one from another, you won't like this CD. Seriously, when I play this CD in my car (very loudly), I have actually been brought to tears. I'm not just saying this, I actually welled-up, I was that moved. You can always check them out on "YouTube" before you consider buying. Anyway, I hope you enjoy them half as much as I have.

Review by Your snobbish friend,
Don Kumpf

The Enchanted Isles

Artist - Carol Thompson

This particular CD offers the listener enchanting harp music of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, some of which has a Celtic quality to it. The hauntingly delicate melodies can take you to another time and place if you're one to meditate. This is one of my favorite CD's to play when I want to spend some quiet time feeling at one with Our Father whether I'm praying, reading scripture or an inspirational book. The music is a blend of classical and folk traditions that (for me) seem to melt away the stresses of every-

day life that can sometimes keep me from spending quality time with God the Holy Spirit.

So, I settle into my favorite cushy chair, hit play on the remote control, and then sit back to enjoy a hot coffee (sometimes with a little chocolate ☺ on the side) and absorb the wordless poetry of the harp while listening heart & soul for what God is saying to me through prayer, scripture and/or music.

Review by Princess

This-n-That

RBC Ministries is an excellent resource for Our Daily Bread on-line and for on-line Bible Study opportunities. You can also find other on-line devotionals there, blogs, and so much more...they even have an on-line store. A link to RBC has been included below for your convenience...

<http://www.rbc.org/index.aspx>

FM 91.5 WCIC family friendly radio...visit their website...you can find many family friendly events in the area by checking out their calendar.

<http://www.wcisfm.org/>

WATCH...mark this national WATCH link as one of your favorites so you can easily find out when & where upcoming WATCH weekends/events are being offered.

<http://wearthechurch.com/index.html>

Catholic Home Study Service

Catholic Home Study Service (CHSS), sponsored by the Vincentian community and the Missouri Knights of Columbus, has been offering free courses on the Catholic Faith for more than seventy years. It is based at Saint Mary's of the Barrens, historic "motherhouse" of the Vincentian Community in America. Father Oscar Lukefahr, C.M. is the Director of Catholic Home Study Service. At this time they offer eight free courses...

<http://www.amm.org/chss.htm>

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The Wicker Basket

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpapa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old, worn-out, Bible.

His grandson, who wanted to be just like him, tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Grandpapa, I try to read the Bible just like you, but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and he sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the old wicker basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead.

The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water, I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went outside to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped up the basket full of water and ran as hard as he could, but when he reached his grandfather, the basket was again empty.

Completely out of breath, he said, "See Grandpapa, its useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty, old wicker coal basket, it was now clean.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible... You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

Moral of the wicker basket story: Take time to read a portion of God's word each day; it will affect you for good, even if you don't retain a word.

In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins – not through strength, but through persistence.
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