



CHUCK'S CHATTER



Don't Take a Vacation from Jesus! Form Your Summer Plans With a Catholic Vision!!

ISSUE 8, Special Summer Edition

www.stcharlesperu.org

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

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Phone: 765-473-5543



IT'S SUMMER VACATION!

An entire newsletter dedicated to VACATION! *You can't help but want to read that, right?*

When I was in school, I remember the days when we couldn't wait for summer break. The last two weeks of classes seemed to drag on and it seemed like nothing of lasting value was really accomplished in our studies. We played games, watched movies, gave the teachers a rough time, and when the final bell rang... we ran to our parents' cars carrying art projects, backpacks, and anything else the janitor didn't want to haul to the dumpster. It was then off to the swimming pool and junior golf lessons.

It wasn't until I became an adult that I started reflecting on the meaning of vacation. Vacation is an opportunity to pull away from the stresses of daily living in order to refresh the soul, renew energy, and develop a fresh perspective on life. After a vacation, we should always return with a new lease on life — and a desire to do “what we were doing” even better. I heard someone say once that the “purpose of vacation is to stay well, not get well.” It is to calm our lives before we are completely lost or burnt out.

Another thought-provoking yet anonymous person offered a reflection on “vacation with a purpose.” This line caught my attention. We take vacations to get away. But, do we take vacations to “do”? Do we take vacations to strengthen family life by being together intentionally? Do we take vacations to enrich our souls with new experiences? And... do we make sure that we take vacations WITH God, not FROM God?

St. Augustine wrote an often quoted line in *The Confessions*: “*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.*” The restlessness of our lives that we seek to satisfy through vacation time is truly a restlessness because of a desire for God. So? When we take our vacations; when we seek rest and relaxation; when we head off to our favorite destinations; and, even when we stay home for summer break... We are reminded that without God... we will still be restless.

This summer, let's make sure we take our vacations WITH God, not FROM God. When you travel, find out before you leave where you are going to attend Mass and at what time. When you are at home, camping locally, or even taking a day trip to visit family... make sure you don't replace Sunday Mass by being away. After all, without Jesus and the Eucharist... you will still be restless. I pray that this summer will be truly refreshing for all — and time well-spent with our Lord.

36TH ANNUAL PARISH BAZAAR BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS

- Donate pies, cookies, cakes, cans of pop and bottled water, hotdogs, and hamburgers.
- For the garden center we need plants, canned fruits and veggies, jams, relishes, sauces, and more.
- Donate clean and usable garage sale items (no clothing please).
- Leadership Positions need to be filled!

For more information or to volunteer, please call the parish office (765) 473-5543

**SEPTEMBER 6,
2014**

**FUN
MUSIC
PRIZES
GAMES
FOOD**

YOUTH MINISTRY

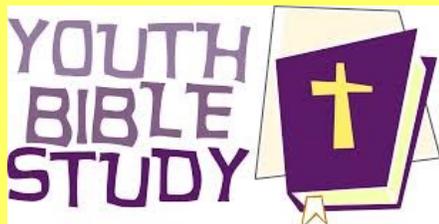
Sunday Night is Fun Night!

There is no more Life Teen for the summer, but EVERYONE in the parish is welcome to come to summer sports nights beginning on May 18th.



Love Jesus? Nothing to do on Wednesday nights at 7:00

p.m.? Know how to read? Come to Bible Study! We're exploring



various books in the Bible. Come and check it out! We meet in the youth room at the school building.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Every other Tuesday, do you find yourself still between the ages of 18 and 35, eating dinner by yourself, wishing you had a group of people of like minds and age group to share a meal and fellowship with? Well, look no further. Actually, look a little further; you're going to have to at least read the rest of this paragraph to understand what's going on. It's Young Adult Dinners! This not very clever name is exactly what it says it is: a time to grab some grub (and maybe a beer) with other people that are just as intriguing as yourself. And if you aren't an intriguing person, come anyway.

BEHIND THE BARS

"For I was...in prison and you came to see me" (Mt. 25:36). A handful of parishioners from St. Charles Borromeo, St. Joan of Arc and St. Patrick parishes have taken this admonishment to heart. Every Wednesday, going to the Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) is just a part of the weekly routine. Among the group are Bob and Rosemary Rhodes who are in their 14th year of serving in this ministry.

And, a ministry it is, of sharing the Eucharist, other sacraments, and prayer, including the rosary. Because of their incarceration, these men do not have the option to decide when they will attend Mass or when they can receive the other sacraments, yet the sacraments are their strength for the journey, their courage to get through the week, and their hope that life can be different. Bringing Jesus to the prison is the most important segment of the ministry, but it is also a ministry of careful and compassionate listening. While volunteers can never forget that there is a reason these men are incarcerated, Bob and Rosemary realize the prisoners need to know that people on the outside still care about and have not given up on them. Bob and Rosemary also believe "that no person is beyond God's reach." Our Catholic faith teaches us this. They see their role as planting seeds and then stepping back and letting God do the rest.

The imprisoned men are very appreciative of the Church members who visit. For many of them, the Rhodes' and other members of the ministry team are the only visitors they have during their entire incarceration. The men are also very grateful for the cards they receive through the St. Charles card ministry team. A small group of our parishioners come together once a month to send Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and birthday cards at the appropriate times. For many, it is the only mail they receive during their imprisonment.

Statistics show that at least 90% of the incarcerated will be released from prison at some point. It is clearly important that efforts are made to touch their lives while they are still in a prison facility. While the Rhodes' are not delusional about the men changing their ways as a result of their presence, they say, "If we've helped make a difference in even one man's life, then it is all worth it."

The ministry team is in great need of more members. Who qualifies for prison ministry? Simple. We need team members who want to share their faith; are willing to follow the rules of the prison; are free on Wednesday

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KEEPING SUNDAY -- ALL DAY

Celebrating Sunday by coming to Mass, even though it is beautiful and essential, is not the only way that we complete our observance of Sunday. In addition to attending Mass each Sunday, we should also refrain “from those activities which impede the worship of God and disturb the joy proper to the day of the Lord or the necessary relaxation of mind and body” (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 453).



This woman is happy...
She keeps Sunday Holy!



Sunday has traditionally been a day of rest. God rested on the Seventh Day of Creation. The concept of a day of rest may seem odd in a world that runs 24/7, where we are tethered to our jobs by a variety of electronic gadgets, where businesses run as normal no matter what the day of the week, and where silence seems to be an endangered species. As Catholics, we are called to live the example of holiness and to help other people to do so... by keeping Sunday Holy.

Unfortunately, not everyone has the freedom to take Sundays away from work. Some people must work for the well-being and safety of others, like medical professionals and public safety workers. Others may not be free to take Sunday off because of the desires of other people. In an economy that is driven by demand, people who go to a restaurant or shop on Sunday may take away the freedom of others to keep Sunday holy.

By taking a day each week to rest in the Lord, we provide a living example that all time belongs to God and that people are more important than things.

To celebrate the Lord's Day more fully:

- ◆ Make sure you and your family get to Mass every Sunday.
- ◆ Don't use Sunday as your catch-all day for errands and household chores.
- ◆ Prepare a family dinner together at home.
- ◆ Take a walk or bike ride and thank God for the beauty of nature.
- ◆ Enjoy some outside family games and activities.
- ◆ Spend time reading the Bible or a spiritual book.
- ◆ Pray the Rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours, alone or with others.
- ◆ Visit parishioners, family members, and others who are homebound.
- ◆ Read Bible stories to your children.
- ◆ Turn off your gadgets and enjoy the silence.



Sunday... just another day
for Mr. Grumpy!
He didn't keep it holy.

FRIENDS OF JESUS

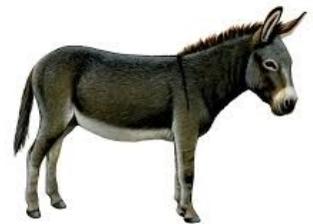
This fall a new and exciting group will make its debut at St. Charles Borromeo Parish—“Friends of Jesus.” Headed by Maria and Jeff Western, it will be comprised primarily of people age 50 and over who wish to have a good time with other parishioners and grow in their faith, as well. (If an activity sounds interesting, any adult will be welcome). Several activities will be offered every month, and each person will pick and choose what they want to attend. Do you want to see a movie, play bingo or cards, go on a trip, see a play, pray the rosary while walking for exercise, attend a class, or make crafts for the bazaar? This group is for you! The first general business meeting will be held on Friday, September 12, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. This get-together will include a pitch-in meal, time for your input about what type of activities you would like to see offered, something fun, and will end with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. If you need transportation, call the office. And, feel free to invite your friends! Put your thinking caps on for potential ideas, and come join us at the September meeting! It promises to be a lot of fun!

COME JOIN US FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!! WHERE YOU WILL CLIMB ABOARD THE VATICAN EXPRESS

June 16—20 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School Building

Sign up sheets are in the pamphlet racks in the church entryways.



Be prepared to:

- Sing loud, clap your hands, and get moving!
- Make awesome crafts!
- Eat yummy snacks!
- Meet St. Jerome, a lion, and a donkey!
- Learn Bible verses in a cave with St. Jerome!
- Find out more about the Pope, the Vatican, the Eucharist, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament!



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Behind the Bars Continued...

afternoons; and have an open, non-judgmental attitude. Rosemary acknowledges that this ministry is not for everyone, so she suggests that if a person is considering it, he/she should pray to discern if God is actually calling him or her to serve in this capacity. People often tell her they fear going into the prison, yet both of the Rhodes emphasize that they have never been afraid in the 14 years they have been involved.

One of the first persons to join Jesus in heaven was a prisoner who was crucified next to Him. Jesus ministered to this man even as he was dying on the cross. He now invites us to carry on His ministry: as the Rhodes say, "Out of our love for Jesus."

Bob and Rosemary suggest that anyone who thinks they might be interested should try it once with a guest pass. To arrange this, please call Father in the Parish Office (765-473-5543).

When asked why they keep going back, both of the Rhodes quickly responded that they enjoy it, and when they think about not going, they just can't bring themselves to give it up. God could be calling you, too, to this fulfilling ministry. Take some time during the next few weeks to pray, listen, and discern. God will let you know, and then all you have to do is make that call.

If you would like to learn more about prison ministry, please call Bob or Rosemary at (765-473-7841) or email them (rtrhodes@comcast.net).

Parish Picnic

Sunday, August 17th
at Mississinewa State Park
Beach Shelter
from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP!!

**Bring your Swimsuits and
sand toys!!**

STOP BY ANYTIME THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

SEE BULLETIN FOR MORE INFORMATION.

