Even children are priests.

The Priesthood of Jesus Christ

Neighborhood evangelization within our parish territory.

St. Vincent de Paul Has Been Sent.

Parish Life & Vitality Report

Fr. Andrew reports on his time at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Know your faith, live your faith, share your faith.

Go and make disciples.

Matthew 28:19
We are baptized into the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Even children are priests.

- Very Rev. Andrew Kemberling, V.F.

The Priesthood of Jesus Christ

St. Vincent de Paul Parish is a Christ-centered, sacramental, and stewardship parish within the Archdiocese of Denver, and the Universal Roman Catholic Church. Its mission is, as Christ has commanded, to “Go and make disciples” (Mt. 28:19), and with the purest of intentions we have a full meaning of what it is to be perfect.

A footnote to this insight is the drama of misconduct of clergy scandal. When the priesthood is under attack, we are all under attack. The common priesthood of Jesus needs ministerial priest to be holy so the holy exchange between the laity and the priest can take place at mass. The Priesthood of Jesus Christ is a hallmark of the Catholic understanding of the sacramental nature of the Church. We cannot lose the priesthood to popular opinion. We must all do our best to preserve the dignity of our service to each other. Let us strive to be holy as God is holy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Rev. Andrew Kemberling, V.F.
Pastor

The Priests and their work together and in concert with each other. The ordained priest makes the victim, the lay faithful offer themselves as victims as part of the sacrifice. I, as an ordained priest, offer myself as a victim as part of the sacrifice. The Father is the focus of our prayer and intentions are critical in understanding the Sacrifice of the Mass. Stewardship spirituality reminds us to come to mass ready to offer a gift. The tithe becomes the first fruits which are precious, remind us that we are precious. The intent to offer them in a worthy manner to God is our holy intention to be part of the sacrifice of the mass. At Holy Communion we become what we receive. Christ living in me and I living in Christ. Perfection is how we understand our unity with God. With the best of our behavior and with the purest of intentions we have a full meaning of what it is to be perfect.

By: Very Rev. Andrew Kemberling, V.F., Pastor

The Letter to the Hebrews is a New Testament book that talks about Jesus being a priest. That is personally important to us because we are baptized as priest, prophet, and king. Both men and women share in the common priesthood of believers. Do not confuse our priesthood with the Old Testament priesthood. That is called the Levitical priesthood. Only certain men from the tribe of Levi could serve as priests.

We are baptized into the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Even children are priests. It is important to remember that Saint Pope John Paul the Great would say to the youth: “You are not the future of the Church, you are the Church!” The priesthood of Jesus is important to the laity from young and old alike. There are two kinds of priesthoods of Jesus Christ.

The first is given to us at Baptism and is described as being: holy, holier, or holiest. You will find other parallels such as: great, greater, or greatest; full, fuller or fullest; good, better, or best. These examples typify the standard of subjective truth.

There are two requirements to be holy. First we must be precious and the second is we must be worthy. Just as gold is a stand out, we are to stand out. We are to look different from the rest of society. Our moral behavior is not of this world. We are to be counter cultural. Our worthiness is found in our intent. We just used two ideas, actions and intentions. Both of these ideas are critical in understanding how to be holy. The progression of this holy activity is brought to its fullest when priests offer sacrifice.

During the Sacrifice of the Mass the presider says “Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty father.” And the people reply: “May the Lord accept the sacrifice of your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all of his holy Church.” This exchange of dialog between the priest and the laity is an example of the two priesthoods in service to each other. The ordained priest makes Jesus present, as Jesus works through the priest. Most people understand this. But the rest of the meaning of this exchange is found in the intention of the laity. Along with Jesus being the victim, the lay faithful offer themselves as victims as part of the sacrifice. I, as an ordained priest, offer myself as a victim as part of the sacrifice. The Father is the focus of our prayer and receives us with the fullness of love. Action and intentions are critical in understanding the Sacrifice of the Mass.
Let us build a Church that lifts the poor from poverty.

- Solemn Declaration, First Asian Pacific Conference

The spirituality of stewardship and the practices that give witness to its truths are changing the heart and face of the Church in the Philippines, which identifies as a Church of the Poor, and beyond. What are the truths driving this conversion? Christian stewardship is about our identity in Jesus Christ. It’s about our trust in God’s promises. It’s about our gratitude for all God has given. It’s about responding to our God in love.

If you are unsure, ask the 197 delegates to the first Asian Pacific Stewardship Conference. In a written Resolution following the conference, they determined that Christian stewardship is key to the renewal of persons, communities, churches and the natural world.

The conference sponsored by the International Catholic Stewardship Council (currently chaired by Fr. Andrew Kemberling of St. Vincent De Paul Parish, Denver) and its Asian partner, Socio-Pastoral Institute was held February 4-7, 2019 in Alfonso, Cavite, Philippines. In attendance were 197 delegates including 68 priests, 117 lay persons and 12 bishops from 27 dioceses, 62 parishes and 14 religious congregations and 17 organizations from the Philippines, USA and South Korea.

The common themes which ran through the many presentations given by local archbishops, bishops and clergy and lay included: stewardship as a spirituality and response to God’s unconditional love, the importance of building relationships through development of BECs (Basic Ecclesial Community), eliminating the practice of the arancel (a medieval practice of assessing a tax for the Sacraments) and calling forth the gifts of the community for service.

Addition experts in stewardship from the United States presented on topics such as Restored Order of the Sacraments of Initiation at St. Paul University Manila before returning home.

The stewardship conference came as an inherent outcome of a dream that native Filipino but now long time Denver resident, Mila Glodava, had for her home parish in the Philippines. She was called to bring the spirituality of stewardship and its practices to help change the heart of her childhood parish but sixteen years later, it has become a national movement. Mila is currently the director of stewardship and administration at St. Vincent De Paul Parish in Denver and was instrumental in helping to acquire funding for the conference.

In 2003, Mila was joined by stewardship expert and pastor of her parish, Fr. Andrew Kemberling and Ml Glodava from St. Vincent De Paul Parish in Denver, CO and ICSC’s Executive Director, Michael Murphy from Dearborn Heights, MI. Also joining as presenters were Jim Kelley from the Diocese of Charlotte, NC; Shannon Lee from the ICSC located in Salt Lake City, Utah, and this writer from St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish in Appleton, WI. Archbishop Samuel Aquila joined the U.S. participants, presided at liturgy during the conference and spoke on The solemn declaration from the first Asian Pacific Conference we hear: Let us build a Catholic Church that is imbued with the spirituality of stewardship.

In this beautiful declaration, and the stewardship practices that it embodies, we are reminded of the first disciples and the early Church. We remember the practices that brought the Christian Church to over two billion members today and it gives us hope. We thank the Church in the Philippines for their courage in saying “yes” and their willingness to do the hard work of making disciples who respond with the heart of Christian stewards. They are a model for us all.
St. Vincent de Paul Parish

has been Sent.

By: Austin Habash & Kelly Archer

“For everyone, St. Paul says, who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, but how can they call upon him in whom they have not believed, how can they believe in him of whom they’ve never heard, how can they hear without a preacher, and how can men preach...unless they are Sent.” (Romans 10:13-14)

Sent’s mission is to reach all those living within our parish territory through neighborhood evangelization. It started in 2016 at the Seminary down the street, on a whiteboard. A visiting priest drew a large rectangular border with a church at its center and some little houses drawn around it. This he said, is the parish territory, of which all the souls living within it is the responsibility of the parish. We are given them to bring them to Heaven with us. One seminarian sitting in the class felt an uncomfortable tug.

And then drawing a much smaller circle around the Church, this professor said, and this is how many people within that territory actually exist within the Church’s walls as Catholics. In the Archdiocese of Denver that’s about 10%. So what are we doing for everyone else? The tug grew stronger. No one had an answer, because to be honest, no one had ever heard the question before. So after a long pause he said, “Well, we just go knock on their door.”

Sent felt like it was time to invite a parish community to be Sent. After a few months of strategic planning with staff at St. Vincent’s, we have undertaken the blessed responsibility and joy to extend a gentle invitation to prayer, grace, and community to our neighbors.

The Sent parish team is made up of 3 teams: Evangelists, Intercessors, and Supporters. Each person placed according to their gifts, all three teams are crucial. Evangelists knock on the doors, simply asking if the person who opens it has any prayer intentions, and letting the conversation flow from there. Never pushy, always inviting and free. Intercessors pray at the same time evangelists are out knocking on doors, for the hearts of those in our neighborhood and the guidance of the Holy Spirit for our Evangelists. The Support team gathers before taking on their mission every Saturday morning and receives formation on the Gospel, evangelization, and more!

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Let us together be Sent, not to foreign missions, but to the vast majority of our brothers who live surrounding St. Vincent de Paul, yet outside its spiritual walls. To those for whom Christ died for, yet are in danger of dying having never known Him, this is our great commission. If you’re interested in joining Sent at St. Vincent de Paul, email austin.habash@sentevangelization.org, or check out www.sentevangelization.org to read more.

In the Fall of 2018, Austin approached us at St. Vincent’s with the opportunity to be the first parish-wide Sent program. From 2016-2018, Seminarians had been going out on their own in our neighborhood. And the fruit was evident. Since 2016, we had two RCIA candidates enter the Church at St. Vincent’s through meeting Sent at their doorstep, and a handful of other people who came back to Mass for the first time in years or joined one of our Bible studies. But there were so many more doors to knock on than was possible for a few men going out two hours a week. After much prayer and discernment, Austin felt like it was time to invite a parish community to be Sent. After a few months of strategic planning with staff at St. Vincent’s, we have undertook the blessed responsibility and joy to extend a gentle invitation to prayer, grace, and community to our neighbors.

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Stewardship: by the numbers

**STEWARDSHIP SPIRITUALITY**

**STEWARDSHIP OF FAITH**

- Know Your Faith
  - Participate in parish events: 3%
  - Pray: 2%
  - Read Scripture: 1%
  - Be aocate: 0%

- Live Your Faith
  - Attend daily/weekly Mass: 1%
  - Participate in parish events: 3%
  - Pray: 2%
  - Read Scripture: 1%

- Share Your Faith
  - Invite a friend to an SVDP event: 3%
  - Invite a friend to SVDP Pray or Pray: 2%
  - Invite a friend to SVDP Pray or Pray: 1%

**STEWARDSHIP OF Vocations**

- Stewardship of Vocations Nominations: Fiscal Year 2017-2018
  - Total Nominations: 27

**STEWARDSHIP OF EARTH**

- IN YOUR HOME
  - Water usage: 1%
  - Power usage: 1%
  - Reduce usage of electricity: 36%
  - Reduce usage of water: 10%
  - Set thermostat low/winter and high/summer: 38%
  - Caulk/weather-strip doors/windows: 12%
  - Recycle newspaper, paper, etc.: 3%
  - Reduce use of disposables: 3%
  - Avoid buying aerosols and Styrofoam: 2%
  - Wash clothes in cold water/air dry: 2%
  - Wash/dry full loads: 3%
  - Use old cloths for cleaning: 3%

- IN YOUR YARD
  - Plant deciduous trees: 3%
  - Consider using push mower: 2%
  - After mowing, leave clippings: 3%
  - Control insects naturally: 1%
  - Water lawn early or late: 2%

- IN YOUR CAR
  - Purchase energy-efficient car: 1%
  - Check tire pressure/maintain car: 1%
  - Dispose of oil/anti-freeze at station: 2%

- OTHER
  - Donate clothing/food to those in need: 1%
  - Donate school supplies: 1%
  - Donate household items: 1%

**STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER**

- SVDP STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER 2018
  - PRIVATE PRAYER
    - Daily Mass: 1%
    - Eucharistic Adoration: 2%
    - Rosary: 1%
    - Meditation: 2%
  - PUBLIC PRAYER
    - St. Vincent de Paul Society: 1%
    - Pledges for the Poor: 2%
    - Pray for the Pope: 1%
    - Pray for the Church: 1%
    - Pray for the Family: 1%
    - Pray for the World: 1%

**STEWARDSHIP OF VOCATIONS Nominations**

- Fiscal Year 2017-2018
  - Total Nominations: 27

**STEWARDSHIP OF VOCATIONS**

- Stewardship of Vocations Nominations: Fiscal Year 2017-2018
  - Total Nominations: 27
Stewardship: by the numbers

St. Vincent de Paul Parish & School
General Charity Distribution by Category
Fiscal Year 2017-2018
Total Donations: $125,123

- Education, $7,710, 6%
- Mission, $42,100, 34%
- Other, $1,900, 1%
- Poor, $49,163, 39%
- Seniors, $1,250, 1%
- Social Concerns, $4,500, 4%
- Other, $1,000, 1%

St. Vincent de Paul Parish & School
Children’s Charity Distribution by Category
Fiscal Year 2017-2018
Total Donation: $43,912

- Education, $25,000, 57%
- Mission, $42,100, 34%
- Other, $1,250, 1%
- Poor, $9,162, 21%
- Social Concerns, $1,000, 2%
- Senior Citizens, $1,000, 2%
- Senior Citizens, $4,500, 10%

St. Vincent de Paul Parish & School
General Charity Distribution by Geography
Fiscal Year 2017-2018
Total Donations: $125,123

- International, $29,923, 24%
- Local, $34,750, 28%
- State, $16,200, 13%
- National, $44,250, 35%

St. Vincent de Paul Parish & School
Children’s Charity Distribution by Geography
Fiscal Year 2017-2018
Total Donations: $43,912

- International, $27,538, 63%
- Local, $3,374, 8%
- State, $13,000, 29%
- National, $13,74, 8%
I will be entering my 6th Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and thought this should be an opportune time for me to give a report on my stewardship of the parish the past five fiscal years. You will note that I encountered some lights and shadows as your pastor. I am happy to note our parish strengths, thanks to the dedicated and hard work of the clergy and the parish and school staff and faculty. I have to admit, though, that we also have some "parish challenges," which I initially called "parish limitations." I hope that you will agree with me that the word "challenges" is a more pro-active perspective than the word "limitations." As I have written in one of the issues of The Call, "Language matters." I am sure that there are more I can add to this report, but there are only so many pages available for this report.

Liturgy: Our Parish Strengths: Since I came to St. Vincent de Paul in June 2014 we have enhanced the Liturgy by installing central air conditioning for the church, hiring a new Director of Music, purchasing new vestments for the altar servers and making the liturgy more reverential and ceremonial. The Masses are covered with excellent cantors and/or choirs with specific repertoire. And although we still encounter some problems, we thought that we invested in a good sound system. Thanks to a generous donor, we are able to upgrade or make repairs to the sound system when needed. General décor of the church, coordinated with my thanks over the years by Lindell Blaich, is pleasing and does not detract to the sacred quality of the sanctuary. We continue to keep the church open so that parishioners may be able to visit the Blessed Sacrament at any time. One comment I received from the surveys says, "I think the right blend of music, excellent homilies, and beautiful environment are present."

In addition, I have consistently talked about "order" and what that means by the message of the Scriptures. It is important for parishioners to know how to integrate their faith in a clear and specific manner so they can understand how to be a servant in the world but not be of the world and to encourage them to live their faith in an informed and inviting way.

I am pleased to report that 65 percent of those who responded to a recent survey come to Mass at St. Vincent's at least four times a month. This is encouraging, but I hope and pray that all the Masses will be filled to capacity in the future. Parishioners also appreciate the two daily Masses, daily confessions, the May Crowning, Litany to the Sacred Heart on First Fridays, Litany to our Lady on first Saturdays, Stations of the Cross during Lent, and school adoration on first Fridays. I am happy to note, too, that our parishioners have initiated some prayer activities such as Prayer in the Square, Tuesday Rosary with Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary after the Sunday Mass, Thursday Holy Hour, Vespers on Wednesday evenings during Advent and Lent, and the Healing Masses on the last Monday of the month.

I would like to add my deepest thanks to Father Doug Grandon, Deacons Marv Hegarty, Hal Goldwire, Tim Kelly, and George Morin, and all the liturgical ministers—the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the lectors, hospitality members and ushers, for their contribution to making our liturgy special and beautiful.

Our Parish Challenges: Although we are seeing an increase in attendance, St. Vincent de Paul can accommodate more people at Masses. Our excellent Director of Music, Danielle Lombardi, and her musicians, cantors, and choirs, laments the struggle to get parishioners to participate in the liturgical music. In addition, the church needs updated bathrooms and the entrances need to be more inviting. The cry room needs to be cleaner and brighter for families with their children. We could also use a new baptismal font. Some of the pews, too, need some refurbishing.

Marriage and Family Faith Formation
Our Parish Strengths: Kelly Archer, Director of the Office of Marriage and Family Faith Formation, and Laurel Fryer, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, have proven to be excellent hires for the Family Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparations— Baptism, Confirmation, Confession, Eucharist, and Marriage Preparation. Kelly and Laurel have successful implemented the archdiocesan Restored Order of the Sacrament of Initiation. A number of parents have positive feedback on the Sacrament preparation and ceremonies. One parent said: "All the Sacraments for my children have been very beautiful and reverent. The clergy and religious are very well formed and run the ceremonies with east and grace."

They also oversee the adult education in the parish, offering such excellent programs as Alpha, Walking with Purpose, and Sent. Some women attend ENDOW and the Nazareth Group, while men attend the Patriarch’s group, as well as a combination of men and women attending Bible studies with Fr. Doug Grandon.

In addition, we have hosted for three years now the outstanding Catholic Biblical School every Tuesday, with a number of our parishioners and other parishioners attending. In addition, during Lent and continuing after, we offered the much-acclaimed “In-Ipsu,” a 12-week session on prayer and how to develop an authentic relationship with God. We also just signed up to offer two sessions in August on “Dante’s Divine Comedy: A User’s Guide to Salvation.”

Since I came to St. Vincent’s in 2014, I have longed to have a strong Youth Ministry. Well, finally, it came true this current fiscal year, and it looks like we have a winner program for our youth.

Our Parish Challenges: If there’s any parish limitation regarding our Marriage and Family Faith Formation Program, it’s our limited space. I hope and pray that we will be able to address this issue sooner than later. Indeed, our parish is, thank God, bursting at the seams for good reason.

School
Our Parish Strengths: According to our survey, most families send one from to three children to St. Vincent de Paul School. And with children from other parishes, I can say that our school is definitely thriving. I have to commend the great work of St. Maria Ivana, O.P. and St. Dominic Quint, O.P., previous and current principal respectively, and the Dominican Sisters, faculty, and staff. The school is doing well academically and has in place spiritual formation as well with weekly Masses and a monthly Eucharistic adoration. The school can boast of an all high-tech traffic and technology including smart boards, iPads, computers, Internet access and others. Because safety of the children is paramount, we have re-keyed the facilities. In addition, its Gala events, which offered a challenge to me when I first came to St. Vincent’s because it took a while to find co-chairs, now have parent leaders eager to coordinate this one and only school fundraiser.

It has been very successful in providing many unbudgeted items such as enhancing the gym’s entryway, building the Outdoor Lab, renovating the cafeteria, and more. In addition, it provides 10 percent to the Children’s Charity for distribution to the charitable organizations and the poor, so that the school children will not have to sell cookies, candies, pizza, and more to raise funds. Please see item on Charity in this report as well as page 11 for more details.

Here’s one comment from one parent: “I love SVdP School. This is our 8th year in the school. We love the presence of the Dominican Sisters who set the tone for the priority of the Catholic teachings, while also ensuring a strong academic training.”

Our Parish Challenges: The school building is definitely showing signs of wear- and-tear and in need of a lot of upkeep, including bathrooms, offices, classrooms, and playgrounds. I am happy that the school now has a full-time staff to address the needs of the school facilities.

Charity
Our Parish Strengths: With my introduction of Stewardship as A Way of Life in the parish, we have created a Charity Account from 10 percent or “tithe of the tithe” of our parish collection. This account enables us to reach out to the charitable organizations and the poor. Until last year, all mandated collections also come from this Charity Account (see p. 11 for more details). In addition, we have encouraged our school children to make their own officer gifts, which go in its entirety to...
their own Children’s Charity. When combined with the 10 percent of the proceeds of the school gala, the students and other children distribute a considerable amount to the charitable organizations of their choice. To date, inspired by our patron saint, St. Vincent, whose love for the poor is legendary, we have distributed a total of $512,289.28, of which $447,073.16 came from the general Charity Account, and $65,225.13 from the Children’s Charity (see p. 20 on “Tithe of the Tithe”).

Among the recipients of our grants is the St. Vincent de Paul Society which carries our namesake’s vocation and “preferential option for the poor,” giving away more than $36,000 in charitable outreach—distributing funds for electric bills, transportation, and accommodation costs for transients and more. They also handle the distribution of food collected in the bins at the back of the church. Meg Robinson, receptionist, tells me about the many distressed calls she receives daily from clients. The Society often publishes in the bulletin heart-rending stories of our dedicated volunteers hear from their clients. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the parish also distributes sandwiches for the poor clients and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. The Respect Life Committee collects baby items and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. The respect Life Committee collects baby items and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. The respect Life Committee collects baby items and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the parish also distributes sandwiches for the poor clients and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. The Respect Life Committee collects baby items and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. The respect Life Committee collects baby items and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. The respect Life Committee collects baby items and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. The respect Life Committee collects baby items and parishioners of Holy Ghost Parish. 

Parish Community Life

Our Parish Strengths: St. Vincent de Paul is a very young parish with an average of 2.3 children per household. We have a core group of loyal and dedicated people who bring life to the parish. These are the Lunch Bunch, the choir members, the Family of Nazareth, the catechists and mentor couples for baptism and marriage preparation, Altar Ladies, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the ushers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, altar servers, the Knights of Columbus, and more.

Our Parish Challenges: To bring more parishioners to make St. Vincent de Paul Parish the center of their life. I hope that our Stewardship of Prayer, Faith as well as Time and Talent will help in this regard.

Communications

Our Parish Strengths: One of our 17 objectives is “to invite the parish and community to discipleship by effective communication.” The Office of Communications, headed by Mia Glodava, worked on to enhancing the Sunday Bulletin, with the goal of making it not only pleasing to the eye, but that it should also reflect our parish mission to “go and make disciples” and our attempt to live stewardship as a way of life in the parish. My thanks go to Sherri Doyle, who works diligently to keep the Sunday Bulletin relevant and interesting. We also have developed and continue to upgrade a user-friendly website (the school also has its own recently upgraded website), which we fill with ways to inform and invite parishioners to deepen their faith, to live their faith and to share that faith with others. St. Vincent’s is also very active on the Internet and Facebook. In addition, I hope you are finding our quarterly newsletter, The Call, edited by Mia Glodava and designed by Jay Ezell, and featuring happenings in the parish as well as inspiring articles helpful in your faith journey. Special thanks to all our advertisers who make possible the free printing of our Sunday Bulletin and The Call.

Our Parish Challenges: We have not perfected this important parish tool, but we are working on making it an even better communication tool to invite parishioners and neighbors in the community to effective discipleship.

Facilities

Our Parish Strengths: Considering the age of our facilities—the church, parish offices, school, the two rectories, and convent—I am grateful that all of them are keeping up with traffic and high usage. On a happy note too, we finally paid off this FY the mortgage for the convent which serves as the residence of the Dominican Sisters. We have finally secured a dependable maintenance crew coordinated by Linda Melgares. They have taken outsourced services in-house with considerable savings to our budget, such as lawn-mowing and office and church cleaning. I am grateful, too, to Peter Duffy and Skip Rodgers, Pastoral Council liaison to Facilities and Maintenance for helping this effort.

Our Parish Challenges: The school building, which the new parish constructed in 1927, housed the church, parish hall, convent, rectory, recrtery, and religious education. Indeed, the building has stood the test of time! It is, however, showing some wear-and-tear and had seen a number of repairs along the way. The same is true for the current church. You probably have noticed on the cornerstone, that it was constructed in 1951. It is, therefore, showing some wear-and-tear as well and will need major repairs, such as updated bathrooms and cry room mentioned earlier. We need to pay attention, too, to the church parking lot, which really can use some upgrade. Thanks to a generous donor we were able to replace the damaged sidewalks to the church, and a few areas around our facilities.

The roofing, especially, had seen some repairs here and there since I arrived. Eventually, however, we will have to face the fact that it will need a complete overhaul with at least a half to a million dollars to make it happen. In addition, the parish offices were left with damages from a couple of flooding in the basement. Insurance paid some, but we also have to shoulder the deductible. The two rectories, too, will need some major repairs sooner or later. All the wear- and-tear repairs have definitely put constraints to our budget as well, and they would be a true parish challenge to face sooner or later.

Finance and Administration

Our Parish Strengths: Thanks to the stewardship of Father Dan Zimmerschied, we were able to undertake several projects from his deferred maintenance savings. With the introduction of stewardship, I have seen a significant increase in the offertory collection which I hope will allow us to replace what we have spent for these projects. In addition, we have hired staff to provide us with needed program on “Marriage and Family Faith Formation” including the sacramental preparation and youth ministry. The archdiocesan audits have brought our risk factor from high to medium, and most recently to low risk. I thank Mark Broda, chairman of the Finance Council and its members for their stewardship of the parish finances. We still have a long way to go but I trust that God will provide us with everything we need to carry out our mission to “go and make disciples.” I hope that our goals to “know your faith, live your faith, and share your faith” give us the direction and unity.

Our Parish Challenges: We probably are still in the initial stages of where I want the parish to be, but I hope and pray that our mission will truly sink in, and in due time or more importantly in God’s time, and with our parish leaders’ help, and together as a parish we will meet all the challenges we face.

Our Parish Strengths: Additionally, the school enrolls 190 students in grades K-8. The school has developed and continues to improve their recently upgraded website, which we fill with ways to inform and invite parishioners to deepen their faith, to live their faith and to share that faith with others. St. Vincent’s is also very active on the Internet and Facebook. In addition, I hope you are finding our quarterly newsletter, The Call, edited by Mia Glodava and designed by Jay Ezell, and featuring happenings in the parish as well as inspiring articles helpful in your faith journey. Special thanks to all our advertisers who make possible the free printing of our Sunday Bulletin and The Call.

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Facilities

Our Parish Strengths: Considering the age of our facilities—the church, parish offices, school, the two rectories, and convent—I am grateful that all of them are keeping up with traffic and high usage. On a happy note too, we finally paid off this FY the mortgage for the convent which serves as the residence of the Dominican Sisters. We have finally secured a dependable maintenance crew coordinated by Linda Melgares. They have taken outsourced services in-house with considerable savings to our budget, such as lawn-mowing and office and church cleaning. I am grateful, too, to Peter Duffy and Skip Rodgers, Pastoral Council liaison to Facilities and Maintenance for helping this effort.

Our Parish Challenges: The school building, which the new parish constructed in 1927, housed the church, parish hall, convent, rectory, recrtery, and religious education. Indeed, the building has stood the test of time! It is, however, showing some wear-and-tear and had seen a number of repairs along the way. The same is true for the current church. You probably have noticed on the cornerstone, that it was constructed in 1951. It is, therefore, showing some wear-and-tear as well and will need major repairs, such as updated bathrooms and cry room mentioned earlier. We need to pay attention, too, to the church parking lot, which really can use some upgrade. Thanks to a generous donor we were able to replace the damaged sidewalks to the church, and a few areas around our facilities.

The roofing, especially, had seen some repairs here and there since I arrived. Eventually, however, we will have to face the fact that it will need a complete overhaul with at least a half to a million dollars to make it happen. In addition, the parish offices were left with damages from a couple of flooding in the basement. Insurance paid some, but we also have to shoulder the deductible. The two rectories, too, will need some major repairs sooner or later. All the wear- and-tear repairs have definitely put constraints to our budget as well, and they would be a true parish challenge to face sooner or later.

Finance and Administration

Our Parish Strengths: Thanks to the stewardship of Father Dan Zimmerschied, we were able to undertake several projects from his deferred maintenance savings. With the introduction of stewardship, I have seen a significant increase in the offertory collection which I hope will allow us to replace what we have spent for these projects. In addition, we have hired staff to provide us with needed program on “Marriage and Family Faith Formation” including the sacramental preparation and youth ministry. The archdiocesan audits have brought our risk factor from high to medium, and most recently to low risk. I thank Mark Broda, chairman of the Finance Council and its members for their stewardship of the parish finances. We still have a long way to go but I trust that God will provide us with everything we need to carry out our mission to “go and make disciples.” I hope that our goals to “know your faith, live your faith, and share your faith” give us the direction and unity.

Our Parish Challenges: We probably are still in the initial stages of where I want the parish to be, but I hope and pray that our mission will truly sink in, and in due time or more importantly in God’s time, and with our parish leaders’ help, and together as a parish we will meet all the challenges we face.
Content Connundrum

Age appropriate books?

By Bridget Edmonds

The Content Connundrum: How do I find age-appropriate books for my advanced reader?

When I first started working at SVdP, one of the things that immediately stood out to me was the strong culture of reading that exists in the classrooms and homes of our students. It’s one of my favorite parts about our school. As the librarian, however, it makes my job, all at once, easy and difficult.

Our school is brimming with students reading far above their grade level. They are voracious readers who gobble up books and return to the library multiple times a week, eager to share their favorite part of the story, get my take on the librarian multiple times a week, eager to share their favorite part of the story, get my take on the

Typically, I am able to scrounge up a new book or two that fits the criteria; however, with such active readers, this often feels like more of a band aid than a true solution. So you can imagine my excitement when I was given the opportunity to attend a conference last December with veteran school librarian and former American Association of School Librarians President, Terri Grief.

As soon as Ms. Grief finished her presentation and opened the floor up for questions, I raised my hand and asked if she had a list of books she suggested for young students that read at a high level:

“I hate that question,” she said flatly, an

“She’s more than tools for increasing children’s reading levels. They help children develop empathy, serve as a mirror to help them better understand themselves, and act as a window into places they might not otherwise see. They model virtues and encourage imagination. Ms. Grief offered several ideas about how to keep an active reader stimulated and excited about books.

Create a List: For the competitive child, Ms. Grief suggested using an ambitious “to-read” from one of the many educational enrichment websites that do the heavy lifting of compiling extensive lists for young advanced readers. These resources publish book lists that allow parents and students to identify material that stretch a child’s reading quantity without sacrificing quality. Websites such as Common Sense Media and Bookopolis are great starting points for creating such a list.

Support a Spirit of Inquiry Through Different Genres: Ms. Grief also suggested supplementing your child’s fictional preferences with nonfiction texts, which tend to be more technical and consist of higher-level vocabulary. This approach is also a great way to encourage a child’s pursuit of his or her natural curiosity.

Encourage Deep Thinking: When it comes to fiction, books of all reading levels typically involve a character grappling with complex social and ethical problems. Encourage your child to dive deeper in their thinking about a text by evaluating characters’ decisions and analyzing the outcomes. Keeping an open conversation with your child about his or her free-read books also offers you the opportunity to ensure they properly understand the conflicts a book presents and is likely to lengthen the time your child spends engaging with the text. This approach can stretch a book from a few day read to a few week exploration of the complexities, challenges, and lessons of the text, and will help a student develop the type of critical thinking that’s so crucial to their long-term academic success.

Ms. Grief’s comments, as well as discussions I have had with other seasoned educators on this topic, have significantly impacted both what I choose to add to our library’s collection and how we use the selection already available on our shelves. Using funds raised from the Barnes & Noble Book Fair, we’ve purchased new books that meet a variety of interests and genres, including memoirs, non-fiction narratives, verse novels, and graphic novels, in addition to new and engaging fiction books with diverse characters and settings.

Furthermore, our recent revamping of the Accelerated Reading program, which you may have read about a few months ago, encourages students to take ownership of their reading choices and engage students to step outside of their reading comfort zone by incentivizing students to read authors and genres that are new to them. In addition to their Accelerated Reader work, students are engaging with new and unfamiliar genres and authors through their library curriculum as well. In their current unit, our fourth and fifth grade classes are expanding their reading repertoire by completing non-fiction research projects and a verse novel study, respectively, in their library class.

It’s also important to remember that your child will always be working with challenging fiction and non-fiction texts in their classes at SVdP. The books your child checks out from our school should be ones that help him or her grow on their own terms.
By Jay Ezell

Dang it! 7:56! Late again and it seems like a miracle we made it out the door at all. Kids not getting up on time. Not listening. Why do I have to repeat the same request over and over just for my kids to barely even pay attention? And that’s just the beginning. My meeting later today keeps stealing my attention, pulling me away from the present moment. The car needs to be cleaned. There are endless things to be done at home and really, it seems like I can’t find a stitch of peace.

You and I have been created with an inexhaustible desire, well, at least one. We might even feel driven by what seems like so many desires. There is one however that every human being on earth has. It’s something imbedded deep into our being. Deep in our soul. A longing.

Getting ourselves and our kids out the door in the morning. Preparing for meetings. Working hard. Going to an afternoon ball game. These are temporal affairs. God our father is working hard. Going to an afternoon ball game. The laity by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and ordering them to the plan of God. Pray. I might even think, why on earth would I pray. I might even think, why on earth would I want to be holy? That doesn’t seem fun at all.

Freedom to Live

The laity by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and ordering them to the plan of God.

“...The laity by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and ordering them to the plan of God.” – Lumen Gentium, 31

What if I told you that holiness brings every single one of us to a more authentic version of ourselves. What if I told you that God doesn’t want you to “die to yourself” so that you can become someone else. He wants you to get out of your own way (die to yourself) and become the best version of yourself. With your talents. With your brilliant ideas. With your dreams. When we get out of our own way, we work on eliminating pride, allowing the fullness of God’s creative power to flow through us. We become liberated. We become truly free. Free to live. Holiness is nothing more than loving God more in this moment. I tell my kids frequently, only one thing matters in life, loving God more in this moment. I tell my kids frequently, how can they be a better friend and loving God more. If they are doing homework, with their siblings a bit more if they focused on loving God more. If they are hanging out with friends, how can they be a better friend and enjoy that time more? They may resist fighting with their siblings a bit more if they focused on loving God more. If they are doing homework, they might do it with more focus and intensity and offer it to God.

As parents, we love God more when we lovingly embrace the 1,001 pinpricks and apparent monotony of days and weeks and months and years of the struggle of life. When we double down on our marriage by showing up with flowers or a surprise date. When we pick up around the house. When preparing meals. And, we can’t forget, the authentic joys of life.

We can all grow closer to God when we experience the authentic joys of life. Things like nature. A great conversation. A good book. The beauty of art. The exhilaration of good music. Our world is full of these. The wonder of God surrounds us. This is what we are all searching for. I challenge each one of us to level up your desire for holiness. To focus on becoming more authentically ourselves by loving God more in this moment and the next. To realize that our desires are good and they are fulfilled when redirected toward God in the most ordinary and wonderful things that surround us everyday. Thus embracing fully the universal call to holiness, right here, right now which will lead us to true freedom. Freedom to live.

As parents, we love God more when we lovingly embrace the 1,001 pinpricks and apparent monotony of days and weeks and months and years of the struggle of life. When we double down on our marriage by showing up with flowers or a surprise date. When we pick up around the house. When preparing meals. And, we can’t forget, the authentic joys of life.
St. VINC ENT DE PAUL
catholic parish & school

Stewardship

“Give the Levites these instructions: When you receive from the Israelites the tithes I have assigned to you from them as your heritage, you are to make a contribution from them to the Lord, a tithe of the tithes; and your contribution will be credited to you as if it were grain from the threshing floor or new wine from the press. Thus you too shall make a contribution from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites, handing over to Aaron the priest the part to be contributed to the Lord. From all the gifts that you receive and from the best parts, you are to consecrate to the Lord your own full contribution.”

-- Numbers 18:26-29

Father Andrew believes strongly in the “tithe of the tithe.” We ask people to make a tithe from their personal income,” he said, “and so must the parish. “We need to walk the talk.” The parish “tithe of the tithe” is “consecrated to the Lord” as the parish’s own full contribution.” Not putting away the “tithe of the tithe” is like stealing from God.

In Stewardship spirituality, we teach giving a tithe back to God. Tithing means giving God the first and the best. In tithing we recognize that:

- God is the owner, and we are the managers of His treasure
- We give back 10% -- a tithe -- the first and the best of what we have including our time, talent and treasure
- A tithe is not leftover or table droppings
- It is the best portion, the first portion.
- It is a sign of our love to give the first and the best to God.

Some parishes give 10 percent of their collection from a particular week to charity. For example, when a missionary comes to a parish for a mission appeal, the parish would give them 10 percent of the collection for that week. Doing it this way poses some problems, because not all charities have the same exact needs.

Instead, St. Vincent de Paul Parish deposits 10 percent of the weekly collection to a Charity Account and distributes, in the Name of God to various charitable organizations. It is a restricted fund that can only be used for charitable causes outside of St. Vincent’s in solidarity with the poor.

From Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to FY 2017-2018, St. Vincent de Paul Parish has distributed $447,073.016 to various charities, locally, nationally and internationally. Recipients of grants provide much needed assistance to benefit various causes – education, the poor, children, youth, seniors, the sick and those marginalized as well as religious congregations, inner city parishes, and the missions. The St. Vincent de Paul Society, for instance, receives $3,000 per month so that they can provide assistance to the poor without having to solicit constantly for funds.

Fr. Andrew allows them to receive special donations during the Thanksgiving weekend. In addition, Father Andrew believes in sending our youth especially to the missions, because they come back with their life-changing experiences that make them more “intentional disciples” and Catholic.

At St. Vincent’s, mandated or special collections are taken from the Charity Account. The week a second collection would be taken, a notice is published in the bulletin reminding the parishioners that they were spared a second collection and a specific amount was sent to “Such and Such” cause on behalf of parishioners. Father Andrew’s goal was to eliminate most, if not all, second collections at Mass to give parishioners more time to concentrate on worshiping the Lord.

The Archdiocese of Denver mandated in 2018 that a number of special collections (see below) be taken up in the pews.

1) Ash Wednesday for the Church in Eastern Europe: March 6, 2019
2) Good Friday for the Holy Land: April 19, 2019
3) Retired and Infirm Priests in the Archdiocese of Denver: October 12 and 13, 2019
4) Archbishop’s Catholic Appeal: Commitment Weekend: May 4 and 5, 2019
5) Cooperative Mission Appeal: June 15 and 16, 2019

6) Seminary Collection: November 2 and 3, 2019

With ten percent of the offertory budgeted for charitable purposes, the Special Collections are carried out administratively, based on historical giving of the parish. In lieu of a second collection, St. Vincent de Paul Parish donates an annual average of nearly $40,000 on behalf of parishioners, to the following special collections:

1. Retirement for Religious: National
2. Church in Latin America: International
3. Disaster Relief: Can be National or International and as needed
5. Catholic Relief Services: International
7. Respect Life: Local
8. Catholic Communications: National
9. National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception: every two or three years
10. Peter’s Pence: International
11. Church of Africa: International
12. Catholic University of America: National
13. World Mission Sunday: International
14. Military Services: National, every three years

In addition, instead of the school children having to sell various products to raise funds for the school, Father Andrew started the Children’s Charity to give away 100% of the children’s offertory and 10% of the net proceeds of the Gala to charitable organizations of their choice. Father Andrew believes that children should be “Little disciples, not little vendors. To date the Children’s Charity has distributed $65,225.13 to various charities.

From FY 2014-2015 to FY 2017-2018, St. Vincent de Paul Parish has distributed a total of $512,298.29 to various charitable organizations, and has, therefore, consecrated the “tithe of the tithe” to the Lord.”