

12-12-99

Dear Church Family:

Peace! I hope and pray this communication finds you well. The purpose of this insert is to summarize the major points of our visioning day and to reflect on where we go from here. Both Father Tomasso and myself were very encouraged by the number of people that attended the event. It shows that the people of Ss. Peter and Paul's Church ( this means you ) care deeply about their future.

Before I present the highlights of the visioning day, allow me to restate the importance of having a vision. We all want God to act in our lives. We all want our church to be vital. We all want our parish to thrive. However, if we want God to act powerfully in our lives we must bring our dreams, our hopes and our aspirations into the equation. God can only work in our lives to the extent that we give Him/Her the space to intervene in our affairs. Voicing our heartfelt dreams gives God something with which to work. It allows God to move with us and through us. In other words, having a clearly defined vision for the parish invites God to be God in our lives.

As people presented their vision for the parish, we placed their concepts into four specific categories. These categories were defined by the Strategic Plan developed by our parish and the parishes in our geographic area ( Immaculate Conception Church, the University of Rochester Newman Center, and the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward ). These categories are Evangelization, Education, Social Justice Ministry, and Finances-Building and Grounds. We added another category called " Other " for those suggestions that did not fit into the just mentioned classifications. In this insert, the focus is going to be on evangelization. Listed below are the summaries of people's visions relative to the ministry of evangelization:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Outreach to Fairchild.                       | 8) Evangelizing our young people/other churches. |
| 2) Outreach to Main Quest.                      | 9) Improve communication with past members.      |
| 3) Encourage/train individuals for evan.        | 10) Advertise accessibility of church.           |
| 4) Micro enterprise ministry. ?                 | 11) Share with other faith communities/cultures. |
| 5) Publicize mass times.                        | 12) Draw local neighbors into parish.            |
| 6) Define mission statement & Advert.           | 13) Partnership with other churches.             |
| 7) Homecoming weekend ( Carol Ritter's column ) |  |

The above ideas are both positive and realistic. We will begin a process of implementation after the first of the year. We can make it happen! We will see miracles in this church if we deepen our relationship with God and spread the light to others. People are hungry for love, hungry for hope, and hungry for life. All of us have a gift to share. My prayer is that others will find God in our midst. Thank you!

In the God of Love,

*Craig*  
Craig



Jan. 1, 2000

Parish Family:

Peace! As I stated previously, these inserts are to summarize the ideas that we stated on our parish visioning day. This will help to keep our dreams for the parish fresh and alive. This week, the focus is on social justice. These are the vision statements you created:

- 1) Social Events for the local community.
- 2) Integrate Outreach Programs into community.
- 3) Integrate parishioners into our outreach programs.
- 4) Advertise our programs.
- 5) Encourage ownership of homes ( educate ).
- 6) Reduce expectation of priest.
- 7) Ministry of Reconciliation ( to married priests, divorced, gays and other Christians ).

It might be helpful to reflect on the meaning of social justice. The ministry of social justice is rooted in the gospel message. Jesus did not call us to love God and then ignore those in need. Rather, Jesus challenges us to see God in those that are oppressed, hungry, and marginalized by society. However, seeing God in them is not enough. Jesus challenges us to respond to their needs with compassionate action.

Our parish has a rich history of compassionate action. Our soup kitchen, our clothes ministry, and our bread distribution program are wonderful examples of compassion in action. However, we need to ask ourselves if there is more that Jesus is asking us to do? We must also avoid the belief that we are too small or too poor to do more. We need to think and act as if the very resources of heaven are at our disposal. We need to operate not out of fear, but out of love and freedom. As we seek to bless others, God will surely bless us.

I recently was asked the following question: "How are the ideas of the visioning day going to take flesh in the life of our parish?" It was a very good question. Certainly, I will provide leadership, especially as it pertains to the strategic planning process. However, a leader cannot and should not make everything happen. A good leader holds the creative space that empowers others to make things happen. In other words, if you have a dream or vision for the parish step forward and make it happen. Trust yourself and your ability to listen to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

On a completely different note, it is with sadness that I announce that Luke Perrone Sr. has passed away. He was a faithful and loyal member of our parish. Please keep him in your prayers. His funeral will be Wednesday, at 9:30 AM. Nothing in this life last forever.

In Jesus,  
Craig



Dear Parish Family:

April 30, 2000

Personally, I treasure the weeks following Easter. It is as if we stand in the glory of the Risen Jesus. Hope abounds! Life emerges! Love triumphs! We catch a glimpse of what is possible. We get a foretaste of what is to come. And, our path to God is illumined. Yes, this is a marvelous time of the year.

The challenge, however, is to find a way of remaining open to the light of the resurrection as the glow of the Easter season fades. This is particularly difficult when we are confronted with life's dark side. It easy for our light to become dull and for us to lose our way. Somehow, we must find a way of maintaining contact with the risen Jesus.

At the risk of sounding simplistic, we must keep our eyes fixed on above. What does it mean to "keep our eyes fixed on above?" We must acknowledge the pain and darkness that appears to be part of the human condition. As Christians, however, we must never allow the "darkness" to ultimately determine our attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. In other words, we take our cues from above, from Jesus, from the light and power that flows from the resurrection experience. Specifically, this means that we learn to live in the solution, focusing on the positive that can be done. It also means that we chose to take the high road, gravitating to that which is noble, compassionate and true. Finally, it means that we embrace what is loving, what is life-enhancing, and what serves the common good. If we faithfully put these things into practice, we will know the energy of the resurrection.

Recently, I was asked "Whatever happened to the visioning day and all of those ideas?" My response was that "the visioning day is alive and well." Below is a list of what has happened in our Church, what is happening, and what is about to happen.

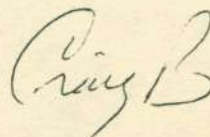
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|--|--|
| -Return of Ash Wednesday( evening )Celebration | -Outreach to woman & children living in the former school                |
| -Adult Education on Sunday Mornings.           | -Plans for a parish retreat in the fall.                                 |
| -Benediction Service.                          | -Plans for support gatherings for singles and couples.                   |
| -Thursday Healing Circle.                      | -Ecumenical Celebrations with local Churches ( In the planning stages ). |
| -Reconciliation Committee.                     |  |
| -Our Homecoming Celebration                    |  |

This is significant of growth in a short period of time! If you have a vision, an idea, or a dream for Saint Peter and Paul's Church, please bring it forth.

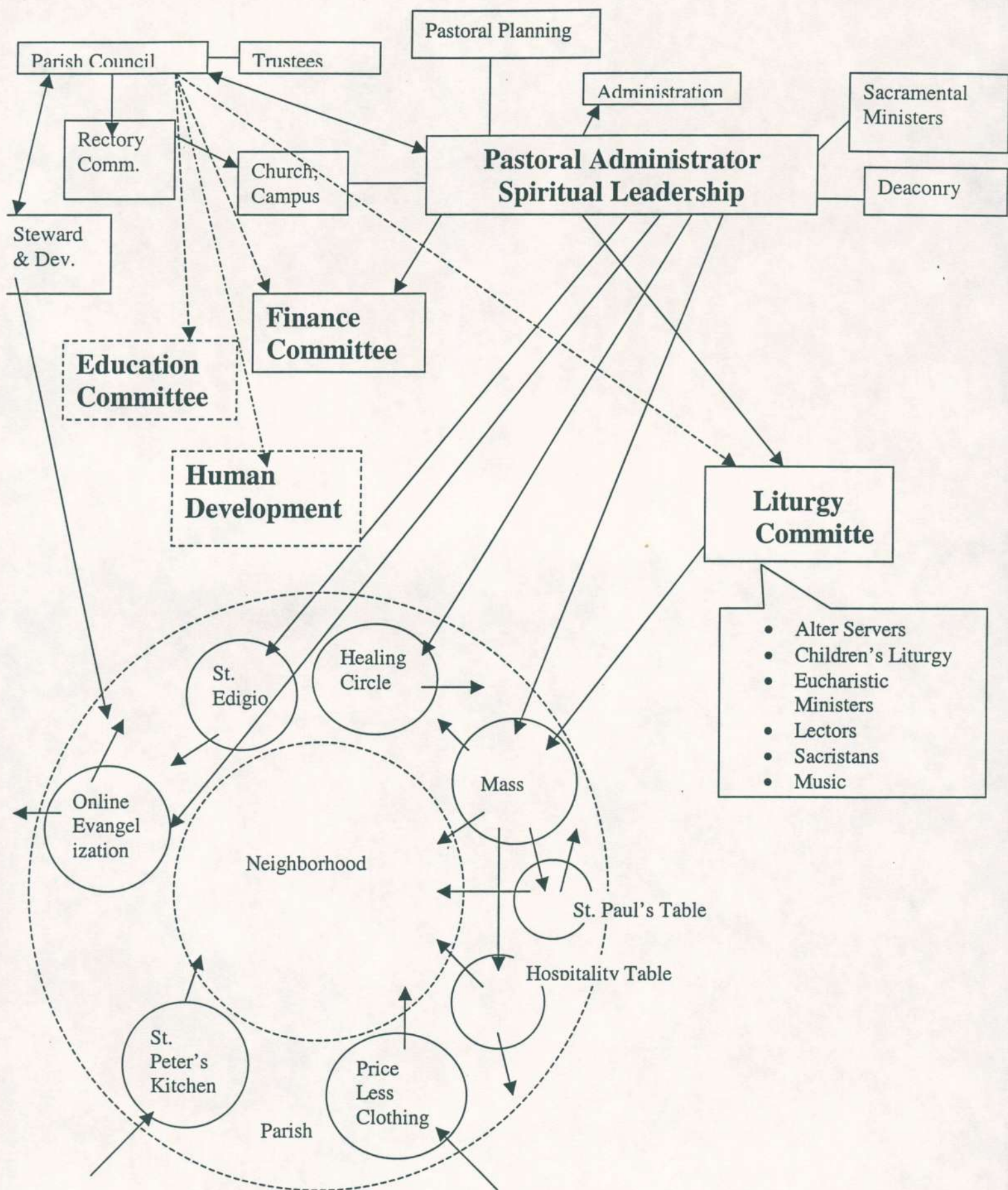
Good news. We have received a grant from the diocese that will allow us to proceed with a new outreach ministry to the woman and children living at Fairchild ( Fairchild is located in the second and third floors of our school and provides safe housing for mothers recovering from alcohol and drug addiction ). This is an exciting new ministry for Saint Peter and Paul's Church. It is another way of bringing the love of God to people in the neighborhood. It will bless others and we, in turn, will be blessed by God. Please see me if you want to be involved. We need help.

Next week we will be resuming our Sunday Morning Adult Education Series. The next three Sundays we will be focusing on the relationship between Sexuality & Spirituality. After this series is completed, we will do a series on the great themes of scripture. We meet at 9:15 AM in the side chapel. Please join us! Have a good week.

In Christ!









Dear Parish Family:

June 25, 2000

I pray that this insert finds you and your loved ones to be well and happy.

Clearly, Saints Peter and Paul's Church is experiencing a time of transition. Today we say good-bye to Father Paul Tomasso. As I stated last week, he has served us well. He is a dedicated, gifted and prayerful priest. Without his clear-sighted leadership, our doors might now be closed. Thank you Father Paul. You will be in our prayers, now and in the future. We will miss you. God bless you.

To help us in our transition, I would like to suggest a number of traits or characteristics of a Church that is healthy and growing. I am not saying that my list is exhaustive, but I do think that it is a good place to begin.

1) First and foremost, we need to be Christ-centered. This means that we love Jesus, that we are a prayerful community, and that we attempt to live our lives in accordance with the " Gospel." If we are truly Christ-centered, the energy of God will flow out of us. When people come to Saints Peter and Paul's Church they will feel and sense the presence of God. More than anything else, our focus has to be on Christ and his message!

2) Our liturgy and worship needs to be prayerful, inspirational, and meaningful. This means that we need to value our preaching, our music, and our sense of the sacred. Gathering around the Lord's table should never be taken for granted. This also means that we cannot leave our liturgical celebrations entirely up to the priest. Everyone has a part to play or a gift to bring. Our voices are gifts, our prayers are gifts, and our positive ideas are gifts. For example, last Sunday one of our members suggested that we bring Mary ( the Mother of Jesus ) into a more prominent place relative to our Church life. I thought that was a great idea. We will work on it.

3) We need to be a Church that empowers people to use their gifts and to develop their leadership abilities. If people have ideas, they should feel free to express them. If people have a vision for some new ministry, they should feel free to pursue it. The Church is not primarily a building, it is the " people of God." And, the people of God are a talented and gifted group of individuals. Those gifts and talents should never go to waste.

4) A Church that does not serve those in need is missing an essential piece and can never really thrive. Jesus identified himself with the poor. When we serve the marginalized of our society, we serve Jesus. And, when we serve Jesus he lives in us and with us. When Jesus is in us and with us, we cannot fail.

5) Finally, to be Church means to have a living sense of community. Church is family, a place where people belong, a place where people feel supported, and a place where people feel welcomed. We must seek to be a " Christian Community " in the fullest sense of the term. We do not have to be perfect at it, we simply need to try.

What do you think? I would be interested in your comments.

Please remember, next week our Mass schedule shifts to 9:30 AM. I hope and pray that this change does not deter anyone from attending Mass at Saints Peter and Paul's Church.

On a personal note, every Friday I host a Catholic-Christian radio show from 1:00 PM until 1:30 PM ( WWWG radio station: 1460 on the AM dial ). This has nothing to do with Saints Peter and Paul's Church. I just thought you might like to know.

Please have a good week and remember that God loves you, unconditionally.

*Craig Bullock*



## **SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CHURCH**

**We have seen the face of God, and we live.**

*By recognizing Christ in each other, we merge with God, and we reflect God's face, God's heart and God's hands through prayer, worship, discernment and service.*

### **OUR MISSION**

The Mission of Saints Peter and Paul Church is to promote the development of the minds, bodies and spirits of our community members – parishioners and neighbors. We build the *beloved community* guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ. We center ourselves in prayer first, and we radiate our devotion and faith through celebration of the Eucharist and humble service.

### **OUR VISION**

The Vision of Saints Peter and Paul Church is to be humbly known and recognized for our love -- as a *Church of Conciliation* and a place of healing -- a home church and destination for some; a respite on the journey for others. Saints Peter and Paul Church is a vibrant 21<sup>st</sup> Century urban church, a place where all are welcome and where people feel that they have come home. Prayerfully executing God's work in Rochester's West End neighborhood, Saints Peter and Paul Church provides renewal, hope and faith for all and generates the spirit of God's love felt locally and globally.

### **WHO WE ARE**

We are a self-reliant, interdependent, urban Roman Catholic community – a spirit-filled family of parishioners and neighbors, of worshippers and believers. We focus on and leverage our assets – our love of God; our passion for reconciliation; our commitment to justice and mercy; our legacy of spiritual, geographic and economic significance in Rochester, New York's historic West End – home to Susan B. Anthony and workplace of her friend, Frederick Douglass, whose spirits live on here.

### **OUR COMMITMENT**

- Be all that God calls us to be with continued good stewardship of church resources (people, buildings, finances)
- Build collaborative partnerships with other churches, agencies and institutions creating a mutually beneficial interdependence.
- Welcome all people, celebrating diversity
- Raise up and empower leaders from among the People of God
- Recognize, honor and celebrate the priesthood of all believers
- Grounded in the Holy Spirit, experience and embrace the mystical and real presence of God in our midst
- Serve as an energetic witness, living the Gospel in the City's West Main Street neighborhood, responding through social ministry meeting holistic needs
- Be a model grace-filled urban church



## **OUR PROCESS**

Through various forms of prayer, devotion, worship and service, we live God's word. We recognize, seek out and engage the diversity of gifts and talents that each of us brings. Through our love and service, we actively strengthen each other, our families, and our local and global communities of parishioners and neighbors.

## **OUR MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

St. Peter's Kitchen  
Priceless Clothing  
St. Paul's Table  
Outreach to Fairchild Place  
Healing Circle  
Children's Liturgy

*Generated by Parish Council  
28 October 2000 Retreat*

Feast of the Holy Family

December 31, 2000

# **Ss. Peter and Paul's Church**



## **Ministries:**

### **Healing Circle**

In the church  
Thursday - 12:10PM

### **Fairchild Outreach**

bimonthly support  
for women and children

### **Price-less Clothing Store**

Located in the old school  
681 Brown Street  
235-6511

Store Hours:

Saturdays Only  
9:00-10:15AM

### **St. Paul's Table**

weekly bread distribution  
following Sunday mass

### **St Peter's Kitchen**

Located in the old school  
681 Brown Street  
235-6511

Serving Hours:

Monday-Friday  
12:00-1:15PM

720 Main St.W  
Rochester, New York 14611  
436-3110

**Sunday Mass at 9:30AM**

*Loving God,  
Building Community,  
Serving Neighbors.*



Staff:

Craig Bullock, Pastoral Administrator

Rev. Brian Cool, Sacramental Minister  
Rev. Michael Upson, Sacramental Minister  
Rev. Ray Fleming, Sacramental Minister  
Rev. Robert Werth, Sacramental Minister

Sr. Barbara Kuhn, St. Peter's Kitchen Co-Director  
Patty Lorenzen, St. Peter's Kitchen Co-Director,  
(in training)

John Curran, Price-Less Clothing, Manager  
Tony DiGiovanni, St. Paul's Table  
Kathy Elam, Fairchild Ministry

Sue Keenan, Business Manager

Office Hours: Mon-Wed 9-2, Fri. 10-2.

Craig Murphy, Sacristan  
Leo Spogli, Sacristan

New parishioners: WELCOME! We invite you to  
introduce yourselves and register with Craig.

Sacraments of Baptism & Marriage: by Appointment

Sacrament of Reconciliation: by Appointment



Parking available at  
Haag's Citgo Gas Station,  
on Main Street and behind  
the church off Brown Street.  
Handicapped parking  
available. Please keep  
the front circle clear  
for emergency vehicles.

Sun. Dec. 24th Offering \$1095.47  
Attendance 110  
Mon. Christmas Day Offering \$683.75  
Attendance 85

Masses for the Week

Sun. Dec. 31 9:30AM  
for Nicholas Poole  
-Linda Caputo  
Tues. Jan. 2 12:10PM  
for Mary Deyo  
-estate  
Sun. Jan. 7 9:30AM  
for Fredman Deyo  
-estate



*Please support your Parish  
in donation of time, collection or will.*

Sun. 9:30	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Dec. 31	Jean DiGiovanni Bob Papaj	Frank Battaglia (B) Joe Bieck (C) Julie Edwards (C)
Jan. 7	George Perrin Eileen Peerrin	Marcy Klein (B) Andrea Wheatley (C) Mary Muller (C)

Upcoming Events

Weekly Meetings: Sun. 8:00AM Alcoholics Anonymous  
Thurs. 12:10PM Healing Circle  
Sat. 5:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

12-31-00

Dear Church Family:

As we approach the beginning of a New Year, I pray that you be filled with hope, boundless energy, and the peace of Christ!

With the coming of a New Year, most of us tend to evaluate our lives. Some of us even make resolutions. It is psychologically and spiritually important to examine our lives, to take stock of where we have been and where we want to go. Let me offer some suggestions.

It is never too late to make changes and we should never give up on our dreams. Our lives are always a work in progress and it is never too late to be happy or to bring someone else a bit of joy. The important thing is that we be very clear about our intentions. What do we want to experience? What is it that we want to create in our lives? What are we about? Once we are clear about our purpose, we must take concrete steps to realize our dreams. Daily, we need to commit ourselves to some action that will help us to realize our goals. Do not be discouraged if you fail. Simply pick yourself up and try again. Keep on trying. Never give up.

Most importantly, ask for God's help. Seek to do God's will. Make it your most important goal to be one with God. God cannot resist such clarity. Ask God to make you into a saint. Insist on it. Then, be prepared for the ride of your life. Remember, the difference between a saint and sinner is that the saint never gives up, never ever.

I want to thank everyone that contributed gifts and clothing to the Jesse Tree. We had an abundance of gifts to give to the mothers and children of Fairchild Place. I want to especially thank everyone that helped to organize this ministry. Thank you!

After our wonderful Christmas Mass, I spent a few minutes at the Soup Kitchen. I was very inspired. There were many volunteers (including a Rabbi and people from his synagogue), gifts were being passed around, and the Spirit of Christ was in the air. Sister Barbara and Patty did a wonderful job putting it all together. I felt as if God was smiling on the people being served, on those who were providing the service, and on us as a Church.

Next Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be having an Epiphany party (Epiphany celebrates the tree wise men bringing gifts to the infant Jesus). The children of our Parish will be singing songs and helping us to celebrate this festive occasion. Everyone is asked to please bring a dish to pass. We will begin promptly at 5:00 PM (children need to be here at 4:00 PM so as to prepare for the celebration). Thanks to Diane Hayes for organizing this event and to her husband Larry for providing the music. Events like this remind us that we are alive and growing!

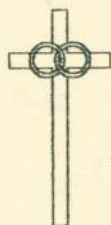
Most often, January 1<sup>st</sup> is a holy day of obligation (The Church celebrates the fact that Mary is the Mother of God). Given the fact that this year it falls the day after Sunday, the Church is not making it a day of obligation. So, we will not be having Mass on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> this year. However, it would still be advisable to prayerfully remember that Mary is the "Mother of God" and to seek her blessing in all that we do.

The next Liturgy meeting is on Saturday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00PM. New people are encouraged to attend. The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. Thanks to everyone that helped to decorate the Church. It looks beautiful.

God Bless you, Happy New Year and remember that God loves you, unconditionally.

*Craig Bullock*





*In memory of my husband,*

*Silvio Battaglia*

*In loving memory of  
my beautiful wife.*

*- Gordon*



*In memory of my son,*

*Joseph Battaglia*



*In loving memory of*

*Florence & Fred Jay*

*-Bernadette & Bob Tuttle*

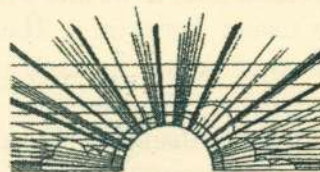


*In memory of former parishioners,*

*Mary Weis Brayer & Frank Brayer*

*1855-1934*

*1855-1927*



*Thank you God for this day.*

*-Bernadette & Bob Tuttle*



*In loving memory of*

*Baby Nicholas Poole*

*-Love always,  
Aunt Linda*



*In memory of*

*Patsy & Theresa Perrone*

*-daughter Marge Winguard (Perrone)*

*-grandson David Winguard*



*In loving memory of*

*Betty & Anthony Petrosino*

*-daughter Jeanette Sciaratta*



*In memory of the deceased  
members of the  
DiGiovanni/Powers families*