

# The St. Vivian Times

FALL 2009

For Teens

## HELP US BUILD THE ALUMNI WEBSITE



Hey St. Vivian alumni! Do you ever wonder what happened to your grade school classmates? Want to know where they are going to school or what they plan to major in?

Thanks to the efforts of Mike Behr, the St. Vivian Webmaster, we have a

new alumni website! The alumni page allows you to share your information and sign up for future alumni news. Please check it out at [www.stvivan.org/alumni](http://www.stvivan.org/alumni).

If you have any questions or alumni ideas, contact our Development Director, Lynne Morris.

We look forward to hearing from you!



**BUMP,  
SET,  
SPIKE!**

The youth ministry volleyball league starts in January! Our first (and only) practice will be Sunday, January 3, at 7pm in the St. Vivian gym. Games will be every Sunday from January 10 - March 28. The league is co-ed. If you have talent, that's awesome! If you don't, that's ok, too! Registration forms can be printed from the Youth Ministry website:

[www.stvivan.org/youthministry](http://www.stvivan.org/youthministry).

## FEAST OF ST. VIVIAN: DECEMBER 2

We celebrate the feast of St. Vivian (known as "Santa Bibiana" in Italy) on December 2. St. Vivian is a 4th-century martyr whose remains rest in the Basilica of Santa Bibiana in Rome.

According to legend, Vivian lived at a time when the Roman Emperor persecuted Christians. As zealous

Christians, Vivian's parents were tortured and killed because of their beliefs, while Vivian and her sister were left to starve.

When he discovered that the girls were still living, the Roman Governor ordered them to be brought before him. Vivian's sister, weak from starvation, confessed her faith and died at his feet. Her family dead, Vivian was placed in the home of a pagan woman who, despite many attempts, was unable to make Vivian renounce Christ. Vivian was beaten, then tied to a pillar and whipped until, still refusing to



renounce her faith, she entered into a martyr's death.

After she was buried, an herb grew above her grave that was used to treat

headaches — making St. Vivian the patron saint of those who suffer from headaches, hangovers, or epilepsy. She is also the patron saint of mental illness, torture

victims, and single laywomen.

All are welcome to remember St. Vivian and celebrate our parish in a dinner following the 4:30 mass on Saturday, December 5.



*Thank you Amy McMahan for showing Jeanne Schaefer and Jodie Bender around on their recent visit to Mount Notre Dame!*

**For more information about St. Vivian Youth Ministry**

Contact: *Jeanne Schaefer, Director of Youth Ministry, 728-4332*

**To receive text message reminders  
about youth ministry events**

E-mail your name and cell phone number to:

[jeanne.schaefer@stvivan.org](mailto:jeanne.schaefer@stvivan.org)



## CHRIST HAS NO UMBRELLA ON EARTH BUT YOURS

This past June, I attended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation and the reception that followed. When the reception ended and I started to leave, I was surprised by a huge rain-storm outside. A crowd of people stood in the breezeway staring forlornly at their cars through the downpour. Each person was praying for an easy way to get to their cars without getting soaked.

The options were grim. Run now and just accept that you'll get drenched or wait for the rain to let up. But waiting could take hours. I decided to run for it.

While dodging through the rain-drops and slipping in puddles, a thought popped into my head, "Wouldn't it be great if someone with an umbrella could escort people to their cars?"

By the time I got to my car, I was soaked. Climbing in, I glanced in the back seat. Either by coincidence or by act of God, there was my umbrella. It's a huge umbrella, the perfect size for walking others to their cars during a torrential downpour.

I sat in the car and pondered this turn of events. God had set before me the opportunity to be His instrument in answering the prayers of all those people who were still waiting in the breezeway.

On the other hand, I was wet and cold and I wanted to be home, warm and dry, and maybe watching TV. I looked out at the parking lot. A few more people were dodging raindrops and running toward their cars.

I shrugged, "Well, they figured it out, others will too." And, with only a negligible twinge of guilt, I started the engine and drove home.

I expected that to be the end of it, but three days later I met an elderly friend of mine who had also attended the graduation. She asked me how I fared in the rain that night and then told me her story. Being older, she wasn't able to go running through the rain the way I had. And because she had driven there alone she didn't have anyone to help her get to the car. So she waited for the rain to let up – which it didn't. She waited for more than an hour before a complete stranger offered to drive her to her car.

I felt like a total complete schmuck.

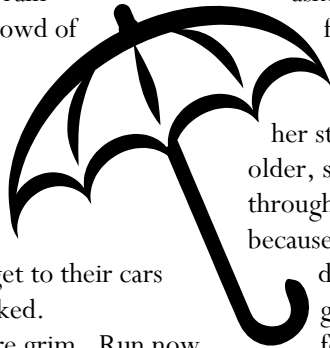
And, when I reflect on that memory, I still feel like a schmuck. But I'm also reminded of a poem written by St. Teresa of Avila. In it, she points out that

Jesus is no longer walking around on Earth doing good things. But Christ is still with us, and the way he gets things done is through us.

We are all living instruments of God. What a an amazing honor! If only we all had the faith to hear and answer when we are called.

*Take courage; get up,  
Jesus is calling you!*

*- Mark 10: 49*



*Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

*- St. Teresa of Avila*

# WORKING WITHOUT PAY ON THE MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

By Guest Columnist  
Adam Zust

Over the summer I had the privilege of going on the mission trip to New Orleans. On the way down I started to think about how silly the whole idea of a mission trip was — taking off work to pay someone else so I can work on a different job without any pay. I understood that there was a good reason for participating in mission trips, I just couldn't find it.

Well later that week I did find it and it was in the shape of a Mr. Brian Bertaux, whose home we worked on in New Orleans. I couldn't help but feel moved after having a talk with him. When I got done talking to him I wanted to work harder and longer. I wanted to see a smile on his face at the end of the day.

When we first arrived, in the 93% humidity and the 110 degree heat, our seven-day trip seemed so long! But

when the trip was over and I was going home I reflected on what I had thought about on our way down. Why would any sane person pay money to do work?

The reason is very simple, we do the work because we love to see that the work from our hands is able to create such happiness that cannot be described on paper. That is why I paid to go work in the 93% humidity and 110 degree heat. And why I'll probably do it again.



*Clockwise from top left: fun with drywall mud, morning prayer, Mr. Bertaux presents awards for hard work, the Mississippi River, Mr. Bertaux and his crew, all the volunteers*



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **NCYC 2009 - Kansas City**

*Wednesday - Sunday, Nov 18 - 22*  
Five St. Vivian parishioners are traveling to Kansas City for the National Catholic Youth Conference. Check the next issue for photos and news about their trip, and think about joining us for NCYC 2011!

### **Feast of St. Vivian**

*Wednesday, Dec 2*

### **SPCA Service Day**

*Saturday, Dec 5, 9am-1pm*  
Lend a hand at the animal shelter to help care for lost or abandoned pets. Registration required.

### **St. Vivian Dinner**

*Saturday, Dec 5, following 4:30 Mass*  
Celebrate the Feast of St. Vivian with a potluck dinner in the school cafeteria.

### **High School Youth Meeting**

*Sunday, Dec 6, 7-10pm*  
Join us in the Youth Room on the first and third Sunday of every month for faith sharing, games, snacks, and time with friends.

### **Immaculate Conception**

*Tuesday, Dec 8*  
Honor our Holy Mother with a celebration of Mass the evening before, on Dec 7 at 7:30pm.

### **Christmas Caroling**

*Sunday, Dec 13, 12:30-4pm*  
Strike the harp and join the chorus... of fellow parishioners by caroling at the homes of St. Vivian's shut-ins. We'll provide the songbooks, you provide the Christmas spirit. Fa-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la!

### **High School Youth Meeting**

*Sunday, Dec 20, 7-10pm*  
Youth Ministry Christmas Party!  
Bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$5 for a gift exchange, followed by a Christmas movie.

### **Volleyball Practice**

*Sunday, Jan 3, 7-9pm*  
It's time for youth ministry volleyball! All high school students are welcome to participate in our co-ed league. No skills necessary. Games will be every Sunday evening from Jan 10 - Mar 21.

### **Perfect North Slopes**

*Saturday, Jan 9, 9am-6pm*  
Hit the slopes with the youth ministry! Both skiing and snowboarding are available. Registration required.