

The St. Vivian Times

CHRISTMAS 2008

For Teens

YOUTH MINISTRY VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE STARTING SOON!



Last year the St. Vivian Youth Ministry Volleyball Team had an impressive 1-12 season. OK, that's the opposite of impressive - but we had a lot of fun! And this season promises to be even better! (It couldn't be worse.)

Our first (and only) practice will be on Sunday, January 4, in the gym starting at 7PM. Games begin on January 11 and will take place on Sunday evenings through April 5. Times and locations are to be announced.

This is a co-ed team open to all high school students. We are limited to 15 players on a team, so sign up will be on a first come first serve basis. There is no cost to play unless we decide to get team t-shirts. Registration forms are available to download at www.stvivian.org/youthministry. Please register before January 4.

If you are looking for a fun sport with no pressure to excel—this is the team for you!



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

St. Vivian Youth Ministry wishes everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

We celebrated the season with a Christmas party on Sunday, December 14. The day began with caroling at the homes of homebound parishioners and concluded with a party in the youth room, featuring a white elephant gift exchange.

Some highlights from the gift exchange include "Cooper," the Super Duper Reindeer Pooper (not as

gross as it sounds) and a new pair of Christmas boxer shorts (at least we hope they're new!)

To those who attended the party and all those who couldn't, may the peace and joy of Christ's birth fill your heart this season and inspire you throughout the year.



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@stvivian.org



THOMAS MERTON: MONK, POET, NEIGHBOR

Did you know that one of the most influential spiritual writers of the last century used to live about two hours away from Cincinnati?

By the time he was 20 years old, Thomas Merton had attended schools in France, England, and the United States; had lost both his parents to illness; enjoyed traveling, drinking, and watching movies; and had a reputation for spending time with the ladies.

Although, in his youth, he had no interest in God or prayer, on a trip to Rome when he was 18 years old, Merton began to experience a very gradual spiritual awakening. At age 23 he converted to Catholicism



and soon began to pursue the priesthood while also working as an English professor at St. Bonaventure University.

Around this time, Merton took a week-long spiritual retreat at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, not far from Louisville, Kentucky. Merton felt an immediate spiritual attraction to the place and, just seven months later, he moved there permanently to become a Trappist Monk.

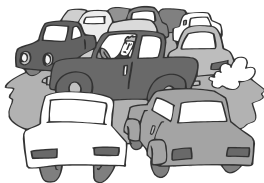
In contemplative silence at Gethsemani, he wrote over sixty books and hundreds of poems and articles about spirituality, as well as civil rights, and non-violence.

In 1968 Merton traveled to Asia where he met with Buddhist leaders, the Dalai Lama and Thich Nhat Hanh. It was on that trip, on December 10, that Merton died suddenly of an electric shock.

The prayer to the right of this article comes from one of his many books.

MY LORD GOD, I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM GOING. I DO NOT SEE THE ROAD AHEAD OF ME. I CANNOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHERE IT WILL END. NOR DO I REALLY KNOW MYSELF, AND THE FACT THAT I THINK I AM FOLLOWING YOUR WILL DOES NOT MEAN THAT I AM ACTUALLY DOING SO. BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE DESIRE TO PLEASE YOU DOES IN FACT PLEASE YOU. AND I HOPE I HAVE THAT DESIRE IN ALL THAT I AM DOING. I HOPE THAT I WILL NEVER DO ANYTHING APART FROM THAT DESIRE. AND I KNOW THAT IF I DO THIS YOU WILL LEAD ME BY THE RIGHT ROAD, THOUGH I MAY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT. THEREFORE I WILL TRUST YOU ALWAYS THOUGH I MAY SEEM TO BE LOST AND IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH. I WILL NOT FEAR, FOR YOU ARE EVER WITH ME, AND YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE ME TO FACE MY PERILS ALONE.

- THOMAS MERTON



HOLIDAY PARKING TIP

Every Catholic knows that when looking for something that has been lost, you call on the help of St. Anthony, saying, "Tony, Tony, Look around. Something's lost and must be found."

Well, what if the thing you're looking for is a parking space? Try calling on the help of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, world traveler; caregiver to immigrants, orphans, the poor, and the sick; the first American citizen to be canonized; and - patron saint of parking spaces.

"Mother Cabrini, Mother Cabrini, please find a space for my little machiney!"

FACEBOOK USERS: WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND?

St. Vivian Parish now has its own Facebook group! Yes, we are trying our darnedest to be tech-savvy! Search "St. Vivian Parish - Finneytown" to join our group. You'll be able to connect with friends, view Sunday's readings, write prayer requests, and RSVP for upcoming events.



The Times for Teens is looking for material to be published in future editions. We welcome poems, movie reviews, commentaries, articles, etc. If you have an idea for our next issue, send it to jeanne.schaefer@stvivian.org.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: TROLLING THE ANCIENT YULETIDE CAROL



'Tis the season to be jolly, so on Sunday, December 14, after the 11am mass, twenty St. Vivian volunteers

visited the homes and nursing homes of several of our homebound parishioners, gifting them with raucous voices and lots of good cheer.

Thank you to Brenda Gallagher for providing the song books for the yuletide carols, to Mary and Randy Kent for sharing their gay apparel (mostly Santa hats and one beastly alpaca fur helmet), and to Greg Hogg and Sarah Kent for striking the harps (ok, guitars) so the singers could join the chorus.



Their choreographic talent was displayed in the performance of *The 12 Days of Christmas*—with motions—

which was met by rounds of applause from the residents of Franciscan Terrace. Fa la la la, la la la la!

THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

November 1, 2008

Dear St. Vivian's Youth Members,

The St. Vincent de Paul Society want to thank you very much for the generous donation of \$279.00 which you gave from the receipts of your recent Halloween Dance.

The money will be spent prudently in helping the poor people we assist. We get many calls for help with food, rent and utility bills. Any assistance we give is always appreciated by the clients.

We also want to thank you for the many times we've received help from your group in collecting food, helping with the St. Vincent de Paul pick up truck in the back parking lot twice a year, and the other ways our youth group is willing to lend a hand.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Rahe

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Saint Vivian Conference



LOOK AT THE WAYS ST. VIVIAN TEENS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY!

PREPARE AFFAIR: TIME TO RAKE THE LEAVES

On Saturday, November 15, forty one St. Vivian volunteers braved the cold and the rain to reach out to neighbors in need. We cleaned the gutters and raked the leaves of nine different homes throughout North College Hill, Mt. Healthy, and surrounding areas. In the process, we got to meet and serve wonderful neighbors (who often served back, with donuts, cookies, and hot chocolate!), and spent time working side by side with fellow parishioners of all ages. Thanks to all who participated, a day that was cold and rainy, was also heartwarming and fun.

Prepare Affair is coordinated by People Working Cooperatively, a nonprofit organization that assists low-income elderly and disabled homeowners. Throughout Greater Cincinnati, more than 3,000 Prepare Affair volunteers worked on a total of 1,000 homes.

BON VOYAGE!

Good luck and safe travels to St. Vivian graduate Katie Usalis. Katie is a student at UC who is leading a mission trip this month to install a water treatment system in a village in Cameroon, Africa. We look forward to hearing all about your trip!

OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Perfect North Slopes

Saturday, Dec 27, from 9am-6pm

Registration required. Permission forms are available for download at www.stvivian.org/youthministry. Lift tickets are \$30, ski/snowboard rentals are \$15, and beginner's lessons are FREE.

World Day of Peace Mass

Thursday, Jan 1, at 11am

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati will commemorate the Church's World Day of Peace with a mass celebrated by Archbishop Pilarczyk on New Year's Day at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, 8th & Plum Sts, downtown.

Volleyball Practice

Sunday, Jan 4, from 7-10pm

We're going to get our volleyball season off to a great start by actually having a practice this year! Meet in the St. Vivian Gym.

Volleyball Games

Sundays, Jan 11 - Apr 4

Volleyball games will be held every Sunday evening. Times and locations to be announced. Check our website for details.

Laser Tag

Friday, Jan 23, from 6:30-9pm

All 7th-12th graders are invited to battle your friends in two private laser missions at Laser Web. Registration required.

Matthew 25 Ministries

Saturday, Feb 21, 8:30am-noon

Saturday, Mar 21, 8:30am-noon

This year we have two opportunities to help send food, water, and clothes to people in need around the world by volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries. We are limited to 15 volunteers each day, so please register in advance.

Living Stations of the Cross

Friday, Apr 3, 7-8:30pm

See the Passion story acted out in a moving drama right here in St. Vivian Church. If you would like to be part of the performance, watch for sign ups in mid-February. Parts are available for musicians, actors, and narrators.