



Winter 2003-2004

Saint Vivian's Vibrations

7600 Winton Rd. • Cincinnati, OH 45224 • (513) 728-4331

In Memory Of Deacon Jerry Coomes

Editor's note: The following two eulogies were given at the gravesite for Deacon Jerry Coomes, who died this fall after a long illness

When I think of Jerry, I think back to 1976. It was the country's bicentennial and people were talking about time capsules, to be opened in 25 years or 100 years. Bonnie, Jerry, my wife, Pat, and I were sitting at Coomes' dinner table one evening and we decided to make a time capsule of our own. We talked about including lots of memorabilia to see how the items might change in the next 25 years. Things like: a newspaper, some money, photos of the family, an eight-track tape of Barry Manilow's *I Write the Songs*, Paul Simon's *50 Ways to Leave Your Lover* and Johnny Taylor's *Disco Lady*.

We had so much fun; we were laughing at all the stuff to go in the capsule. There were many items; so many that we decided the capsule would have to be so big that we didn't build it... Or did we? I think we actually made the most permanent time capsule of all -- our fond memories of that evening, laughing and having such a great time.

Another fun time was the "great campout of 1984" at the Girl Scout Camp in Ross. There were the Coomes, the Fanchers, the Boyds, the Rings, Fr. John Wolbert and others. We played volleyball, grilled out hamburgers and cut firewood for the nighttime bonfire. We've got a picture of Jerry putting a Band-Aid on my wife's finger after she stuck a fishhook in it. That was Jerry, always helping others in need, even when he had needs so much greater than ours.



You could always tell where Jerry was because there would be his blue and white Chevy pickup. I think he drove it the entire time I knew him, until he couldn't drive any more. Jerry and I had lots of fun doing bodywork on the truck as it got older so it would stay in shape.

Spiritual Journey

We had other fun times and celebrations, like Jerry's graduation party in 1986 and when he was ordained a Deacon in 1992. But Jerry's ordination wasn't the beginning of his spiritual journey. He had long been involved with doing the Lord's work.

In the early '80s, Jerry was one of the founders of the "City of God" prayer group with Fr. Whalen at St. Vivian. The group continued to grow to nearly 50 members. This continued with Fr. Jack Filippine's support sponsoring healing Masses at St. Vivian's for over five years. The group also sponsored "Life in the Spirit" seminars and traveled to Notre Dame for the charismatic renewals. Jerry being drawn to the diaconate seemed only natural after his involvement with this group.

And as a Deacon, Jerry WAS the bereavement committee. He was always present and prayed with the bereaved of the Parish. He visited every hospitalized parishioner and in many cases came to their house to pray with them. Fr. Jack and Jerry were a mighty duo in the love and care they gave St. Vivian's. Their close relationship was like father and son. Jerry baptized over 100 children as a deacon. And he did all this in spite of the fact that

continued on page 2

he himself endured long-term physical and financial problems beyond what we would ever expect. But that was Jerry. If you ask him, he would say he was just a simple country boy. I think he was just a simple SAINT!

Jerry's wife, Bonnie, asked me to express her gratitude to all of you who cared for Jerry and his family over the years. She says: "Our family would like to thank the people of St. Vivian Parish for all their help over the last few years of Jerry's illness. You were always there for us. A special thank you to our close friends for all you've done and a very special thank you to all of you who have volunteered your time to visit Jerry at the nursing home, giving him comfort, bringing him communion and just being there for him and to Bev Diemar for organizing all of this.

"Also thank you to the Ensemble Music Group for going out to sing to Jerry; you'll never know how much he enjoyed your uplifting songs. Thanks also to Jan McManus for arranging Jerry's fundraiser last year, and to so many of you who came out to walk on a very cool, rainy day. A very, very special thanks goes out to John Vidmar for his nightly visits over the last 1½ years. Our parish has always been one big family and after the last few years of Jerry's illness you have proved that over and over again. Thank you all so very much."

--Bill Benvie



Another Memory of Deacon Jerry Coomes

The moment I heard Jerry had died, two thoughts came to mind. One was a bet that Jerry and Father Jack had about a year ago: Whoever died first would welcome the other in heaven. The other thought was more overwhelming: It was the long awaited embrace that Jerry received from Jesus!!!!

My first recollection of Jerry is, like most of you, Jerry as our deacon. I remember Jerry's involvement in Network of Care. He had convinced me that a woman of the parish was in desperate need of a wheelchair ramp to get to her doctors' appointments. A few parishioners, Jerry and I worked on a Saturday and got the job done. I also worked with Jerry in RCIA when I was a sponsor and I remember his passion for that program.

One of my more recent deacon memories was when Jerry did baptisms on Sunday afternoon. On

occasion I would put warm water in the baptismal fount for the babies. He called me his "water boy."

But most of my memories are of visiting Jerry in a nursing home. When Jerry first went to Twin Towers my wife and I decided that we would visit him on occasion. Like many of us that occasion became almost two years of visits. Many of you know that Jerry wasn't always in a chipper mood when he had visitors. He had good days and many bad days. On one of his not so good days my wife and I and an angel named John were with Jerry and he was upset that Jesus was not there to comfort him. We told Jerry that we were here with him and that we were Jesus for him, in the hopes that he would find some solace in our words. Righttttt!!! Not that night.

But as I returned home and thought of what we had told Jerry, it really hit home that we are Jesus to the world. And in all the pain and all the loneliness I knew that through all the daily visitors Jerry had (at least one every day for two years, thanks to Bev) that Christ was at work in Jerry's suffering. That Christ's salvation was going on right there in that nursing home. And there was no better example of this than John Vidmar's love and dedication to Jerry. And that relationship was probably one of the most profound examples to me of Christ's love I think I have ever witnessed. Thank you, John!! And now Jerry, go WALK, TALK, SMILE, SING and EMBRACE the one you have long waited for -- Your Savior Jesus Christ.

--A Friend





Spotlight on...

...Bonnie Mack

President of Parish Council

Bonnie Mack has been active in St. Vivian for over 20 years -- since her family joined the parish in the mid '80's. "My husband, Tom, and I have been involved in a variety of opportunities here. We joined St Vivian when our daughter, Carrie, was in third grade. Carrie now teaches sixth grade here, and is expecting her first child."

Bonnie and Tom have been married for 35 years. They have three grown children: Chris, Carrie and Tim. Both sons live out of town, and keep the Macks busy traveling for visits.

That doesn't prevent her from continuing her commitment to stay involved in parish life. Bonnie is currently serving her third and final year on the St. Vivian Parish Council and is chair. She says the role has been an interesting challenge. "The first year I was learning, and last year was the year Father Jack (Filippine) got sick. It was a very difficult year in a variety of ways. This past year has been a year of transition." The parish hired a new principal and pastor in 2003. "All that caused me to pray that the Lord would walk me through the changes and that people would understand if I made mistakes."

Parish Council, according to Mack, is undertaking a new project during the '03-'04 year partially because of the many parish community changes. "One of our roles is to set a vision for the parish during the upcoming year, and we're currently studying how best we can connect with more of the people of our parish and community. St Vivian is such an involved and caring parish; it's one of our strengths. We want to focus on connecting with others who aren't as involved and fold them in."

To fulfill that vision, Bonnie says, the Council is looking at a variety of ways to get in touch with those individuals, including by phone, interviews, surveys, and just plain fellowship. Bonnie is also involved with AMOS, and CHRIP (Christ Renews His Parish). Her husband, Tom, volunteers for St Vincent



Bonnie and Tom Mack

DePaul. She says she's always been involved, and has spent time working for the school PTA, Boosters, and Habitat for Humanity. "The Lord has given me so much, I need to respond by reaching out to others and by sharing," she says.

She sees great things in the future. "I believe we will continue to grow and thrive if we keep focused on the Lord. St. Vivian is full of faith-filled people who care very much about our community."

-- *JoAnn Fiorini*



FANS Craft Show

The first Annual FANS Fall Craft Show that was held on Saturday, September 27, was a great success! There were 40 quality crafters that had a wide variety of unique items for sale. We were blessed with an attendance of over 350 people. FANS sends out a big thank you to those crafters and friends of St. Vivian Church who donated items for the raffle.

The second Annual FANS Spring Craft Show will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2004. Forty crafters will again be featured at the show. Hopefully we will have better weather (our last Spring show was during flood and storm warnings). Mark your calendars now and come out and support FANS and these great crafters.

-- *Joan Gory*



Girl Scouts Spread The Word

Third grade Brownie troop #336 would like to tell you a little about Girl Scouts. We would also invite you to come to any of our meetings or outings. Any girl in kindergarten through a senior in high school may join Girl Scouts. We also are always looking for adults to help with troops.

Now a little bit about our troop. Most of our group have been together since kindergarten. Now, we have the entire third grade class in our troop (18 girls). We meet at least once a month and usually also have an outing or activity. We try to raise all our money by selling calendars, cookies or having bake sales.



St. Vivian Third Grade Brownie Troop 336

Some activities the girls wanted to share with everyone are our Family of God Award, service projects and raising money. We worked last year on our Family of God Award with Father Jack. He was kind enough to sit down and explain to our troop all about our Patron Saint, St. Vivian. He also talked about the workings of our Church and duties of the staff.

We try to do at least one service project a year. The money we raise by selling cookies and bake sales help fund our choices. This year we are collecting canned goods for Winton Terrace at our skating parties. We are also going to make quilts for Project Linus. Project Linus is an organization that collects quilts and stuffed animals for sick children who are in the hospital (so they have a friend with them to make their stay a little bit easier).

Our final service project will be to collect gently used clothing for Travel Donations. Travel Donations is an organization that collects clothing for needy people in America, as well as all over the world. They are always looking for people, who travel out of our country, to distribute the suitcases. If you are able to help, please contact our troop.

Brownie Troop #336 likes to raise money. We sell calendars in the fall. In the winter, everyone looks forward to us coming to their door to sell our cookies. Then just in time for the Spring thaw, we have the hot Lenten Fish Fry and Bake Sale. Our girls really enjoy this. They get to see their friends, families and church members come and have a great time together. We get everyone involved in the baking and selling. The girls learn about handling money and making money for field trips, troop expenses and service projects.

These are just a few things that our troop does in Girl Scouts. We welcome any ideas for service projects, crafts or activities. Thanks for your past support of our group. We invite you to come join the fun of Girl Scouts.

Sincerely,

St. Vivian's Third Grade Brownies



Just For St. Vivian Woman

You do things for others all the time. Now do something good for yourself. One of the most important weekends you may ever spend is coming up January 10-11, 2004. Christ Renews His Parish or CRHP (chirp) as many refer to it, begins Saturday morning and ends late Sunday afternoon. Take time for yourself. You will find the decision well worth the effort. This is one experience you won't want to miss. Make an investment in your spiritual life that will continue to enrich you for years to come. Sign up now. The retreat will take place at St. Vivian's. It's free and all women of the parish are welcome to attend.

For more information or if you have questions contact: Barb Masten, 821-4470; Deb Kaehr, 729-3906; or Teresa Besl, 729-2375.



Calendar of Events



January	
1	Octave of Christmas, Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation, Offices Closed
3 & 4	First Sunday Food Collection
5	School Resumes
10 & 11	Women's CRHP Weekend
11	Father Jack Philippine – 1 st Death Anniversary
19	Martin Luther King Day Offices Closed
21	Child Protection Decree Class 7 pm/UH
24	Market Day Pick-up
25	Catholic Schools Week Begins 12:30 – 2:30 School Open House
30	FANS Spaghetti Dinner & Sock Hop
31 & Feb 1	First Sunday Food Collection
February	
1	Scout Sunday
8	Coffee & Donut Sunday
12	Parent/Teacher Conferences
13	School Closed
14	FANS Karaoke Night
16	President's Day Offices Closed
21	Market Day Pick-up
21	Toy & Clothing Sale
21	FANS Winter Dance
25	Ash Wednesday
28 & 29	Men's CRHP Weekend
March	
6	Child Protection Decree 10am/UH
7	First Sunday Food Collection
13	St. Patrick's Day Party
14	Coffee & Donut Sunday
20	Market Day Pick-up





St. Vivian's

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Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy,
and Prosperous 2004!

Vibrations Needs You!

This newsletter belongs to the whole church

community. Please think about what you would like to see in Vibrations and call or drop a line. This should be more than a record of what's happened and a list of what's to come.

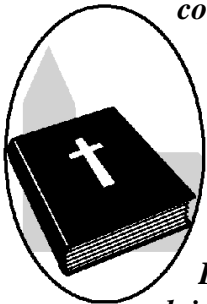
Would anyone like to write a column?

Interview parishioners on some topic?

Let us know what your parish group is doing? Submit a poem? Let us know about

one of the parish's unsung heroes? Or help in any way with the newsletter? Please let us know. Thanks.

—Pat Frey



Visit St. Vivian's Website
www.stvivian.org



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Next deadline is February 1, 2004. All entries should be typed or neatly printed, double-spaced, with your name and phone number. Please e-mail articles to vibrations@stvivian.org or submit items to the rectory. **It would be helpful to have articles on a disk, if you do not have e-mail.** Include photos whenever possible.

Vibrations reserves the right to edit articles for length, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar and punctuation.