

Vibrations

New Look

The parish newsletter, Vibrations, now has a new layout/production coordinator, and a fresh look. New parishioner Cathy Reardon has updated the graphics for the newsletter. Please let us know how you like it.

I want to thank Joan and Dan Valerio who coordinated the layout for the past four years. Their dedication and efforts are greatly appreciated.

A tiny volunteer staff brings you this newsletter each quarter. Your ideas and contributions are very welcome. In this issue we start off the year by welcoming new parishioners who've joined St. Vivian in the past year. In the Spring issue we will start adding a list of baptisms and deaths, as compiled by the rectory.

~ *Pat Frey*

The AMOS Project

The AMOS Project is a group of congregations committed to living out their faith through public action within the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky areas. We affirm the dignity of every human life and address critical systemic problems at their root causes. We are challenged by the prophet Amos who urges, " Let justice roll down like waters."

The Fall 2004 issue of Vibrations detailed results of the July issues convention of the AMOS Project, while a public meeting in September presented the key issues that had been agreed upon, along with the appropriate action to be taken.

Key decision makers from the community were consulted, participated in the process and were there at the public meeting as witnesses for their support of the proposed action to be taken.

Most Important Issues

The two most important issues presented were race relations/workforce development/jobs and public transportation (Regional Equity: Fix-It First Plan for Core Neighborhood Transportation Hub). Separate issues from

Kentucky were the national issue of lead toxicity testing and civil rights initiatives for immigrants (Su Casa) and for janitors were also presented.

Dave Lennert from St. Vivian and West Davis from Woodward Career Technical High School gave the presentation on race relations / workforce development/jobs. Decision makers from the building trade areas (e.g. plumbers, carpenters, etc.) were there to affirm their commitment to job availability for a given number of building trade graduates from the first class of Woodward Career Technical High School in 2007.

Bus loads of people from St. Vivian's and from the other 40+ congregations joined in the celebration with song and action with AMOS for justice and peace in the city-wide community.

The local St. Vivian's AMOS core team of about 10 members meets regularly the second Sunday of each month from 7- 8:30 p.m. in the Gather Room. Call Dave or Sue Lennert (772-7731) if you would like to join an upcoming meeting.

~ *Harry McDaniel*

What AMOS is All About

"They who do justice will live in the presence of God." This was the Psalm response for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, July 25. Our local AMOS group continues to strive to live in God's presence by doing justice. Amos was one of the Hebrew prophets who took seriously the call of YAHWEH to care for the anawim or "those overwhelmed by want." "You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourself in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widows or orphans. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry."(Exodus 22:20-22)

The anawim are those Jesus talked about when he said, "Whatever you do to the least, you do to me." (Matt. 25) AMOS takes this call, not to individuals, which is important, but to political structures. Charity, the sharing of our resources with those in need, is one leg while justice, making sure our political structures help everyone, is the other leg. The church has pointed out that political policies are not neutral but biased. Pope John Paul II emphasized this by saying the church must have a preferential (yet not exclusive) love of the poor (anawim).

Why?

Justice asks the "why" question: Why are the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer? Why does a child born in Over-the-Rhine and one in Indian Hill get drastic differences of money for education? Why does one gender get paid more for the exact same job? Why does a person's skin color have so much sway in our court system? Why are we not protecting those most vulnerable: the unborn, our elders, those with handicaps, etc.? Why do we kill people who kill people to teach that killing is wrong? And so many other questions. The consequence of this fundamental teaching of the Second Vatican Council is that the lay faithful are never to relinquish their participation in "public life," that is, in the many different

economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good. This would include the promotion and defense of good, such as public order and peace, freedom and equality, respect for human life and for the environment, justice and solidarity (Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith).

~ Greg Hogg, AMOS member



Behind the Scenes

In this issue we recognize

**Gene Neltner,
Roy Norris,
and
Bus Kasselmann**

These gentlemen created a small garden in 2001 to honor Deacon Bill Michael. The garden is to the left of the front steps to the church. They removed the shrub from the area and planted a Japanese maple tree. Then they mounted a plaque on a stone.

Girl Scouts, led by Anita Rudy, planted tulips and daffodils. Each year Gene, Roy and Bus planted flowers around the stone.

The death of Deacon Jerry Coomes last year prompted them to expand the garden with the maple tree as the focal point. The garden was enlarged and a plaque was mounted on a stone on the left side of the tree with Jerry's name and dates and the existing plaque for Bill was relocated to the right side. Now we can call it "The Deacon's Garden."

Thanksgiving Stuffing

How were the St. Vivian School children actively involved with the 94th annual Thanksgiving Day Race while snug in their beds? Several weeks prior to the race, second through fifth grade students spent a morning preparing 12,000 envelopes for race day participants. The task: adhere a label to an envelope, insert a computer timing chip, match the chip's serial numbers to the label, insert a plastic tie, and numerically order the envelopes. With the help of incredible parent volunteers, the children finished the task in less than two-and-a-half hours.

Race director and former Olympic marathoner, Julie Isphording, enlisted the school's help with this task. Teachers jumped at the opportunity. "This activity offers our students a positive, hands-on service project. Rather than bringing in money or a can good that mom pressed in your hand as you went out the door, this activity provides a concrete experience to help others," remarked third grade teacher Judy Rolfert. "When the children are done, they are thrilled."

Race proceeds benefit Barrett Cancer Center, Anthony Munoz Foundation, and the Free Store Food Bank. The students are well aware of who they are helping. Fourth grader Amy Manning commented, "You knew you were doing something important for people." Classmate Annie Spinnenweber added, "It was fun to help everybody in the community."

"The kids get so excited, actually getting their hands in the project. They feel part of it," said fifth grade teacher Julia Glassmeyer. "The parents, students, and teachers of St. Vivian School are so wonderful to help with this enormous task," reflected Ms. Isphording. "Their compassion for others is evident."

~ Jan McManus

Ask Quicklets

There is a new service for the parish called "Ask Quicklets." It's purpose is to harvest and properly funnel questions to those that might have an answer. It is designed to address

questions for which you don't know where to go for an answer or those that you feel might benefit the school or parish as a whole if published.

To submit a question, email askquicklets@stvivian.org. The person asking the question will not be identified but the person answering will. Questions that could benefit a larger number of people will be placed on a "Frequently Asked Questions" page on St. Vivian's web site.

~ Tom Bove



St. Vivian students stuffed 12,000 envelopes for the local Thanksgiving Day Race.

askquicklets@stvivian.org.

Workcamp 2004 - Built to Last

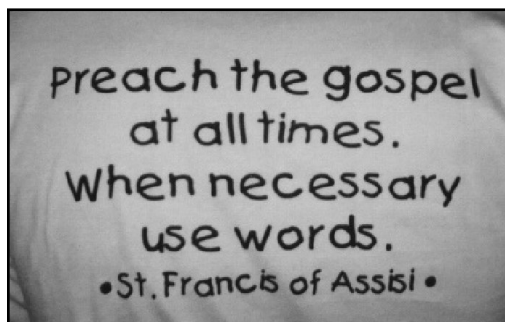
Our annual Workcamp last summer in Portsmouth, Ohio, was a powerful way to jump-start our young peoples' faith. It was unforgettable. It was fun and it changed the lives of our young parishioners as they served people in real need. That's why we go back to Workcamp year after year.

At Workcamp we experienced Christian service on the front lines of the real world and grew closer to Jesus! Our eyes were opened. Our hearts softened. Our faith ignited! This is another reason why our youth group return year after year to serve in meaningful ways, and to experience powerful Christian growth. For our group it happens time and time again.

There's something very powerful about serving others in need. We see and experience people in need as real people – rather than just “the poor or needy.” Our participants developed friendships and took great leaps of spiritual growth and character. It's amazing what happens to our participants when they encounter new places, cultures and different ways of life. Our group made new friends from churches across the country. We developed closer relationships with each other, and best of all, with God. As a result we came home with a new sense of unity, understanding and respect for each other. Our group has a deeper desire to know and serve God.

~ **Jodie A. Bender, Director of Youth Ministry**

Workcamp participants sported this tee shirt.



The Workcamp team worked hard and played hard

2005 Workcamp in the Works

Plans are underway for the next Workcamp, July 24-31. We will travel to Hammond, IN - Hammers for Hearts Workcamp. Nearly 20 percent of the area is considered to be a “Rustbelt Neighborhood,” an area with little business development and lots of economic hardship.

The once-busy steel mills have slowed production or closed altogether. Most residents are retired steel mill employees, elderly, or young families in starter homes. They're so busy trying to make ends meet that they have little time for anything else. This gives you a great opportunity to make a huge impact on a community by sprucing-up area parks and beautifying run-down neighborhoods. You'll be surprised to find out how much your time and effort goes towards giving someone a new sense of self-esteem.

We are currently looking for young people and adults (one per five youth) to participate. Please consider this ministry and contact Jodie Bender at jodie.bender@stvivian.org or 728-4339 for more information.

Men's Christ Renews His Parish Weekend - February 26 & 27

Most of us really enjoy being a vibrant part of the things we love - our families, our neighborhoods, our careers. However, sometimes it's difficult because we spread ourselves so thin. Everyone wants a piece of us. Things just get too hectic; meeting all our commitments can become exhausting.

If this sounds like you, welcome to the club. What's the solution? Actually there are many, but finding the one that helps you best isn't always easy. We on the Men's Christ Renews His Parish Formation Team would like to offer one suggestion. Most of you won't accept this option, but those who do will experience a dramatic change in your lives. You will give yourselves a gift that will enable you to become a better giver. And you'll find that you'll receive far more than you give.

What is the renewal weekend like? It begins on Saturday morning and ends on Sunday afternoon. You'll meet with other men in our parish to share our experiences, our friendships and our spirituality. We'll eat well, talk, listen, learn, laugh, cry, pray and silently reflect. We'll share scripture and the sacraments. We'll meet new friends of different ages, experiences, and

talents. And the result will be personal growth, mutual growth and a stronger St. Vivian Parish.

In the 1970s, Monsignor Earl Whalen asked a few men and women of the parish to try this experience as a way for adults of the parish to get to know one another better. Through the early 1980s, scores of parishioners shared the experience and went on to become lectors, lay distributors, music ministers, coaches, school volunteers, and every other role this parish needed to become as vibrant as it has.

A few years ago, several former participants discussed Christ Renews His Parish with Father Jack Filippine. He enthusiastically encouraged them to re-institute the program. He saw it as a way for newer and long-time parishioners to get to know each other better, paving the way for deeper friendships and commitments in our parish.

We sincerely invite and strongly encourage you to join us at the end of February. Please prayerfully consider attending.

~The Men's Christ Renews His Parish Formation Team

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

Can You Help?

This year's festival chairs, Todd and Jen Murphy, and the rest of the festival committee is busy with plans for Father's Day weekend. They are in need of booth chairs for the festival, slated for June 17-19. Call them at 641-0703 to find out how you can help

2005
St. Vivian's Festival
June 17-19

A Golden Friendship

The new year of 1955 was just beginning, and it was a snowy day when two expectant mothers entered Good Sam. One entered the morning of January 4; the other entered that same evening. After a few hours of the fathers pacing the waiting room, a baby boy's arrival was announced. The next day a boy was presented to the other father-in-waiting. As fate would have it, both babies were roommates as were their mommies.

Not knowing each other before, these two proud mothers were introduced to each other. From then on, morning till night, they chatted away. Even the newspaper remained unopened because of so much conversation between the room partners.

Bad weather prevented the fathers from visiting, so the laughter and conversation went on into the night until the nurses said they were getting too loud!! From those five days together, both mothers became the best of friends. Eileen would go on to become a teacher at St. Vivian's School and Ginny served as her aide.

That was 50 years ago and a wonderful, special friendship has flourished between Eileen Davis Knight and Ginny Meyer.

~ Ginny Meyer.

Silver Bullet Trailers: Hobby on the Go

You've seen them on the highway, those silver bullet trailers, being pulled by vans, trucks or SUVs. Did you ever wonder who these people are and where they are going?

If it is late June and you see many of them, they are probably heading for the International Rally. Every year it is held in a different city in a different part of the country. This makes it fair for people all over the U.S. to have it in their region every few years. Last year the

International was held in Lansing, MI, which was great for all those in the Midwest.

Many workers go in early to set up the "Silver City." They lay out water lines, parking spaces, etc. There are dozens of different committees working hard for the official opening of the rally. The group will be celebrating their Golden Anniversary in 2005.

Giving People

It's impossible to paint any group with a broad brush, but as a whole, Airstream people are fun loving, hard working, patriotic, caring people. This past June they collectively turned in 3,900 lbs. of aluminum pull tabs! You don't realize how many tabs it takes to make a pound!

A total of 5,008 winter hats were donated and given to 10 local agencies for distribution this winter. Hundreds of stuffed animals were donated for children in very stressful situations, to be to be distributed by the police and firemen. Project Linus collected 224 quilts and the blood drive collected 102 units. Many visited nursing homes in the Lansing area and the "common cents" drive produced \$10,000 in need of financial help for a family whose little boy had half his brain removed.

This past year, parishioner Al Fluegeman has been president of the Cincinnati Unit. This unit has many members from, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan and northern Ohio. It is a very active unit, holding four local rallies, two breakfasts and a Christmas party. Bottom line is, if you are ever thinking about buying an RV, consider an Airstream and join the WBBCI (Wally Byam Caravan Club). It's a sure way to meet wonderful people and have a great time camping.

~ Joann Fluegeman

More Matthew Kelly to Come



On a snowy January evening a crowd gathered in St. Vivian Church to hear a young man speak the truth. Matthew Kelly, a 31 year old from Sydney, Australia, spoke for exactly one hour. In that hour he spoke simply and compellingly about God, love and life.

"What do we all want from life?" he asked. Happiness, was the answer. He reminded us that we really do know what will make us happy – physically (exercise, eat right, sleep enough); emotionally (have great personal relationships), intellectually (read a good, challenging book for 10 minutes a day) and spiritually (connect with God). So why don't we do it? We're too busy.

"What does God want from us? He wants us to be the best version of ourselves," Kelly explained. It's that simple. This should be our life purpose, and that fact can put all of life into perspective. We are to help those around us become the best versions of themselves, and surround ourselves with those who do the same for us. Then we'll be doing God's will, and will be happy. Principles and simple truths, such as these, can be found in Kelly's book, *The Rhythm of Life, Living Every Day with Passion and Purpose*.

If you missed Kelly's Jan. 20 talk, he will be back in November to do the parish mission. You can also visit his web site, <http://www.matthewkelly.org>. Through the Matthew Kelly Foundation, Kelly travels around the country and the world speaking, especially to high school groups. Donations enable him to give a book to each student in the audience. Over the past 10 years two million people in more than 50 countries have attended Kelly's talks, retreats and seminars. He is well worth checking out.

Welcome

Tim & Rebecca Andriot
James & Martha Barrow
Nicholas Brunck
Scott & Lara Cleary
Anna Conrad
Mark & Kerri Cunningham
William & Jennifer Diers
George & Sharon Drysdale
Patricia Filippine
Donald & Coleen Hausfeld
Daniel & Claudia Hawkins
Michael Hermes
Kelly Hover-Collins
Moises Iglesias & Frances Bernier-Lopez
Shelly King
Edward & Betty Koralewski
David & Jennifer Krabacher
Helen Linz
Scott & Carrie Martin
Kevin & Denise McCabe
Cynthia Mersch
Paul & Ann Meyer
Edwin & Jennifer Miller
Sharon Montgomery
Gerald & Traci Noonan
David & Donna Parr
Tim & Linda Patton
Gail Rapien
Pat & Cathy Reardon
Michael & Lee Robison
Michael & Lori Rolfert
Rose Salimando
Matthew & Holly Sukovaty
Sean & Ana Turner
Troy & Lori Vanstone
Michael Verzola
Ann Vogelpohl
Marc & Michelle Wagner
Eric & Carmen Weickert
Keith & Emily Weigand
Thomas & Mary Ann Wurtzler
Matthew & Jennifer Zestermann



Calendar of Events for the Parish and School

<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <p>8 Child Protection Decree Class</p> <p>9 Coffee & Donut Sunday</p> <p>12 Bullying Program Parent Mtg</p> <p>17 Martin Luther King Day Parish Offices Closed No School</p> <p>20 Matthew Kelly Talk</p> <p>22 Market Day Pick-Up</p> <p>29-30 St. Vincent de Paul 2nd Collection</p> <p>30 Catholic Schools Week School Open House</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <p>4 FANS Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>5 Child Protection Decree Class</p> <p>5-6 Monthly Food Collection</p> <p>6 Scout Sunday</p> <p>12 FANS Mother/Son & Father/Daughter Winter Dance</p>	<p>7-15 Pre-Registration for School</p> <p>9 Ash Wednesday, Collection for Europe</p> <p>12-13 CISE Collection</p> <p>13 Coffee & Donut Sunday</p> <p>17 School Conferences</p> <p>18 Faculty Day, No School</p> <p>19 Market Day Pick-Up</p> <p>19-20 Archbishop's Annual Fund Drive Weekend</p> <p>21 President's Day Parish Offices Closed, No School</p> <p>26-27 Men's CRHP Weekend</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>1 Parish Reconciliation Service</p> <p>4 Faculty In-Service No School</p> <p>5-6 Monthly Food Collection PPC Discernment Weekend</p> <p>6 Child Protection Decree</p>	<p>12 St. Patrick Day Mass & Party</p> <p>13 Coffee & Donut Sunday</p> <p>19 Market Day Pick-Up</p> <p>20 Palm Sunday Beginning of Holy Week</p> <p>24 Mass of the Lord's Supper</p> <p>25 Good Friday</p> <p>25-4/3 School Spring Break</p> <p>26 Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil</p> <p>27 Easter Sunday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p>2-3 Monthly Food Collection</p> <p>9-10 Bishops' Overseas Relief Collection</p> <p>10 Coffee & Donut Sunday</p> <p>16 FANS Craft Show</p> <p>16-17 First Communion Weekend</p> <p>23 Market Day Pick-Up</p> <p>23-24 First Communion Weekend</p> <p>30-5/1 Monthly Food Collection</p>
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Visit St. Vivian's Website www.stvivian.org

Published quarterly by St. Vivian's Parish, Finneytown.

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Layout/Production Coordinator: Cathy Reardon

Next deadline is March 30, 2005. All entries should be typed or neatly printed, double-spaced, with your name and phone number. Please e-mail articles to pfrey@fuse.net 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.

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~Pat Frey