

Holy Faith Stewardship 2005 Time, Talent and Treasure

Interfaith Hospitality Network has received 1224 prepared meals for the homeless.

Catholic Worker House received a clothes washer and dryer for their residents.

Arbor House received a donation of a car for one of their resident moms.

Hawthorne Middle and High School received 1100 books for summer reading.

Catholic Charities received thousands of pounds of food for their pantry.

Migrant children in our county received 100 back packs full of school supplies.

Our Guatemalan sister parish received enough support to buy a parish house.

The Knights of Columbus raised and donated \$5,000 to Hurricane Katrina relief.

Hoy Faith Catholic Church
747 NW 43rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 376-5405

Visit our website:
www.holyfaithchurch.org

HOLY FAITH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

By Cristina Truman, Director of Music



We are proud to announce that the Holy Faith Children's Choir has formally begun. Our first practice was on Sunday October 16th after the 11am Mass. We had 17 beautiful voices at our first practice! Everyone sang great and a good time was had by all! All children ages 7 to 13 are invited to join us, at any time, on the first and third Sundays of the month from 12:00 to 1:30pm. Snacks provided.

This is the first of several Choirs to be developed at our parish. We will be recruiting for a pre-K and Kindergarten Choir, Teen and College Choirs too. Watch the bulletin for practice times or call 376-5404 ext. 116.

2005 Advent Play

featuring Hollywood Soap Opera star
Frank Runyeon in...

"The 3 and 1/2 Stories of Christmas"

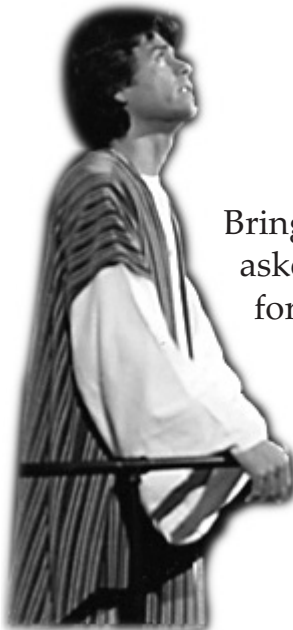
Join us as an angel-in-training from Brooklyn asks the question...

"What's this Holiday about Anyway?"

Tuesday, December 13, 2005
7pm in the Church

Bring the whole family. Children are asked to come a few minutes early for a quick and fun rehearsal!

For more information please call
Charlotte Chadik, PhD,
Director of Family Life
at 376-5405, ext. 104.



Holy Faith

Herald

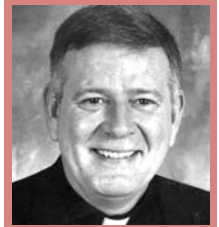


Fall 2005

Bringing the Good News of the Parish to You

A Christian Response to Economic Hardship

by Fr. John, Pastor



St. Martin of Tours (316-397 AD) in his early adult life was a Roman military officer. He was also a catechumen, i.e., someone preparing for baptism because he was not baptized as an infant. The story is told that Martin was riding one winter day on horseback through the town when he encountered an almost naked beggar. We can barely imagine such economic hardship where someone doesn't have even sufficient clothing. Martin was evidently feeling the pinch of hard times also because he had no money to give to the beggar.

According to the story, Martin spontaneously cut in half his large, protective military cloak and gave half to the beggar. Some bystanders laughed at Martin because he appeared ridiculous wearing only half a cloak—he appeared “half dressed.” But others were embarrassed because they had more to give and they had failed to help the beggar.

Later that night Martin had a dream. He saw Christ, accompanied by the saints, walking toward him. As the Lord came closer Martin saw that Christ was wearing half a cloak. He heard Christ turn to one of the saints and say, “Martin, who is only a catechumen, has given me his cloak.” Martin awoke and was soon baptized, and later became a compassionate and outstanding bishop in the Church.

I believe we have much we can learn from Martin's example about “a stewardship of compassion” in times of economic hardship. Martin had little himself, but he was moved by an act of Christian compassion to help another in need. It may seem strange that Martin kept half of his cloak; but in our personal financial stewardship we are responsible for using our resources well to provide for our own needs and those of our families. We are also called to use some of those resources to help others in need, even if it involves some sacrifice on our part.

Martin practiced “sacrificial giving,” i.e., he gave a significant gift to the beggar; Martin did not give the beggar a token gift, he didn't give him a handkerchief! And in giving the beggar part of his cloak, Christ considered the act of compassion as done to him. We can recall Christ's words at our judgement: what we do for the least we do for Christ, or what we fail to do, we fail to do for Christ (See Matthew 28).

Our nation seems to be entering a time of economic hardship with rising fuel costs which will affect the cost of nearly everything. *Christ's compassion will be needed more than ever.* Like St. Martin, our acts of generosity, including sacrificial financial giving, while still retaining what we need, will be generously blessed by God. We are on the right course at Holy Faith by together sharing a stewardship of compassion, the compassion of Christ and his saints.

Thank You Breakfast Brigade

by Laurie Spaniola



Mary Lou Serna Sales Manager, with Fr. John and Laurie Spaniola, Labor Ready Branch Manager, presenting a donation for \$3,000.

Without fail, twice a week for over a year our business has been the site of ongoing Holy Faith stewardship. You may not know much about what I'm about to tell you because it is a little known secret. First, let me start by introducing myself. My name is Laurie Spaniola and I am the Branch Manager at (1343) LABOR READY located at 1208 East University Avenue. For the past year the great people of Holy Faith through the Gainesville Catholic Worker House have been bringing "farm fresh" hard boiled eggs and hot freshly baked goodies to our workers at 6:00 am! We heard that the Catholic Worker House sustained some damage from the hurricanes and felt a need to give something back to those unsung heroes of the wee morning hours. We took our request to our management committee and happily were approved. The team at branch 1343 knows that we would be nothing without the workers and the great community in which we live. We are very proud to work for a company that encourages stewardship too!

GAINESVILLE CATHOLIC WORKER

It's been one year since the Gainesville Catholic Worker house was opened at 218 NW 2nd Avenue, and what a busy year it's been! This year has brought us new friends, real joy, and, sometimes, utter exhaustion. We have received many of you bearing food, blankets household goods and much needed donations. You've come to help prepare meals, making early morning breakfasts for the labor pool workers with the Breakfast Brigade, and serving delicious lovingly prepared meals for Dorothy's Café.

As a community, we are rooted in our commitment to try and follow Jesus in discipleship, modeling after the 1933 Gospel vision of Dorothy Day. Her vision always stressed relationships with the poor. She accomplished this by opening "houses of hospitality" where every person is treated with dignity and compassion. We at Gainesville Catholic Worker commit to a life of prayer, study scripture together and practice a common economy rooted in biblical principles.

To date at Gainesville Catholic Worker we have served approximately 4900 Breakfast Brigade breakfasts and served 2290 meals at Dorothy's Café. We housed 41 guests, for a total of 894 days/nights where the average stay was 22 days per guest.

Dorothy Day once said that what this world needs is a "revolution of the heart." For us, that means a revolution rooted in love which transforms both individual relationships and society as a whole. Come live out that revolution of the heart with us.

In Peace,

All of us at the Gainesville Catholic Worker



A BLESSING ON THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

Cat McInnes, a fifth grader at St. Patrick's Interparish School, could not be happier. Her retriever pup, Millie, is now a Catholic!

This year Father John Phillips blessed approximately 45 dogs, 6 cats, a ferret and a fish named "Fluffy", on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Saint Francis, a 12th century Italian saint, is most well known as the patron saint of animals, families. He was named the patron of ecologists by Pope John Paul II a few years ago. The annual blessing of the animals, on October 4, captures Saint Francis' spirit of compassion that reaches beyond humans to creation itself. We recall

the life of this gentle saint, who loved nature and all living things, every year at Holy Faith. Please join us on the patio next year as we celebrate the bond of stewardship we share with our beloved pets.



Cat McInnes and her Catholic puppy Millie standing at Fr. John's right

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK...

By Beatrice Solis

The year has flown by and as I stand in the middle of our Holy Faith Fellowship Hall, I think of all the stories this place would tell you... *if these walls could talk*. To begin this story I must inform any new parishioners that the Fellowship Hall was the original church, built in 1975. It was used as the Church and Fellowship Hall until the founding members of the parish (I've got the original census if you're interested in seeing it!) got together to build the new Sanctuary in 1981.

Since then the Upper Hall, as it is sometimes referred, has been the regular meeting place for all of our 68 ministries, weekly RCIA luncheons, social gatherings, wedding receptions and more. Our own Claude Marsh, founding member and Parish Facilities Coordinator, and wife Pat, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary there a few years ago.

This past year alone, the Upper Hall served as the lunchroom/auditorium for the first class of St. Francis Catholic High School students, temporarily

housed in our education wing. We started the summer off by hosting a Summer Camp for children with motor disabilities in the Hall. A world renowned Conductor (the term used for teacher of this type of education), Kata Svoboda, came from Hungary to lead this two month Conductive Education Summer Camp. Children, 3 to 16 years old, worked diligently with Kata, Monday through Friday, to develop motor skills and independence. 37 student volunteers from U of F, Santa Fe, and all the area high Schools (including St. Francis Catholic High) helped out daily with the many exercises and meal time activities. The Upper Hall came to life with the sounds of music and singing to which the children would move and clap! The camp was a huge success!

Immediately after the end of Camp, we went into full swing cosmetically renovating the Upper Hall. Years of constant use had left our Hall looking tired and run down. A generous \$10,000 parishioner-donation was made jump starting this effort.

Another parishioner, interior decorator Patricia Wathen, went to work putting in 40 hours of stewardship time and talent to locate materials to upgrade and beautify this cavernous room. The result has been a restoration of dignity to what was, after all, our original sanctuary for worship. We now have a very inviting banquet hall, with rich fabrics on the windows and stage, beautiful carpeting and a wood dance floor, too. The aesthetic benefits were obvious and much to our surprise the acoustics immediately improved as well! We continue making improvements to create a gathering place that feels like home to the Holy Spirit, a spirit of love and fellowship. We hope you enjoy the "new look" and increased comfort of the place. If you'd like to join us in continuing this beautification process please contact Father John.

