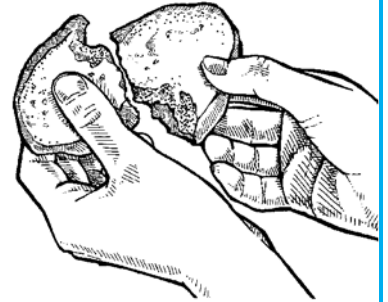


BREAKING BREAD

Good Shepherd Catholic Church



Called to the Priesthood

by Marguerite Thompson



Mark Brandl will be the first person in Good Shepherd's nearly 52 year history who will be ordained to the priesthood. Mark entered St. Francis seminary in 2004 and he was ordained a deacon in 2008. He will be ordained to the priesthood at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral on May 23, 2009. Mark will celebrate his First Mass at Good Shepherd, on May 30 at 4:30pm.

When Mark Brandl began the process of getting acquainted with his faith through the *Catholics Returning Home* program, he couldn't have realized what a life-altering path on which he would be embarking!

Fast forward to 2009: Mark will be ordained to the priesthood on May 23—this month!

When his relationship with the church was reactivated, Mark began to engage with the Good Shepherd bible study, *Bible & More*, and with outreach opportunities (such as St. Ben's, Repairers' of the Breach and the like). After a time of re-establishing his faith life through active participation here at Good Shepherd, the possibility of a priestly vocation began to evolve.

Initially, driving down the tree drive to St. Francis Seminary, he was anxious about going back to school after 20 years, and those coming years of formation process seemed insurmountable initially. My!

Has time flown!

After his ordination to the transitional diaconate, Mark was assigned to St. Veronica's parish in Milwaukee, putting his toes

in the water of hands-on parish ministry. He now anticipates being assigned in May to any one of six parishes that have associate priests.



Here are some thoughts Mark shared about his vocation when he entered the seminary in 2004:

As a priestly formation candidate in my early forties, I can state that God can use men in any stage of their life. If you truly seek serving God, look for the calling in the circumstances and people that come into your life. Ask God for help in discerning what your true feelings are and if this is the life God wants for you. It is not your decision to become a priest, but it is God's, and you will be graced with the desire in your heart to follow it if you respond with a "yes, Lord." I had not even considered the priesthood until Father Mich asked me to think about it. One thing I have learned in my walk with God, is the more earnestly I pursue my faith, the more God reveals to me in discovering what lies ahead. The people God brings into your faith life through ministries at Church help develop a strong bond with them, and a prayer network that is invaluable when you ask for their help in pursuing a decision for serving Christ.

As a Church, we need to plant the seeds of serving humanity with our youth by bringing the possibilities to their attention. We all need to recognize God's voice as adults and perhaps recognize the call for service in our own hearts. Most importantly, we need to petition God as a community of the faithful to meet the needs of the Church and its future mission to humanity.

-Mark Brandl

What's Going To Happen to Christian Formation?

by Wendy Morrison, Director of Youth Ministry

Next year Christian Formation will continue in a new way. The new format will include eight *Generations of Faith* sessions on the theme of The Creed. Additional classes to prepare for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation will also be offered.

We will be exploring central tenants of our faith in a fresh, experiential way that will enable us to better bring forth the Good News!

Parishes all over the country are switching to this model, and here's why:



Advantages of *Generations of Faith* model:

- Everyone is invited, all generations, not just children and families
- Learning continues at home with the Home Kit and the website.
- Every session begins with a meal.
- Parishioners have a chance to meet each other.
- Meets Archdiocesan guidelines.
- More experiential activities
- Focuses on forming disciples rather than memorization.

HOLY THURSDAY

Washing of the Feet



Tom Moran assists Ethan Ramsey wash the feet of his brother, Josiah Ramsey, on Holy Thursday.

The Foot Washing.

It is not enough for us to simply hear this gospel and to "break open" this word in a homily. Our tradition is to engage us in the drama of this ritual. So, it is not enough to simply go to the Holy Thursday liturgy and "watch" it happen. We need to prepare.

In the ritual we experience on Holy Thursday, Jesus gives us a "mandate." He gives us the one commandment of the gospel, "Love one another, as I have loved you." He gives his very self to us, is broken and poured out, and calls us to give our very selves, to be broken and poured out, in love for others. It is important for us to "taste" our resistance to love. We can come to Holy Thursday prepared by our reflection on how difficult it is to love some people ... The liberation happens when we let ourselves have our feet washed by Jesus. Then Eucharist flows from our gratitude. Gratitude is the seed for great loving - the "return" I can make to the Lord for his great love for me.

... This ritual can be as big as we prepare to let it be. The love of Jesus is for all of God's people. We come to Holy Thursday with the whole world in our hearts. The mandate to love, as Jesus loves, calls us to be people whose self giving love reaches out to all who need liberation and the dignity God desires.

from www.onlineministries.creighton.edu



Who's Who and What Do They Do?

Meet the Good Shepherd Staff – a new series for Breaking Bread

This is the first in a series of articles on the members of our parish staff. The intent is to better acquaint parishioners with the "Team" and provide a better understanding of the responsibilities of their position.

MEET THE GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

The Transition Time of Youth

by Bryan Ramsey

The transition Good Shepherd has made from the classroom-based Christian formation to the entire-church-community-based Generations of Faith has been swift. It's been a process of a few years for the entire church, but for Wendy Morrison, the new Director of Youth Ministry, it has been a whirlwind change since she joined the church on the tail-end of the journey. If you've watched Wendy since she began two months ago, you probably couldn't tell though. She has been poised, calm and confident in her new position.

Next fall will premiere Generations of Faith as the sole provider of Christian Formation, and Wendy has mere months to revamp all the existing programs like Confirmation and First Eucharist into the scope of the program. With help from Lorrie Maples and Ann Castiglione, she's up to the

challenge of creating a program for the first time as Director of Youth Ministry.

Wendy ran the youth ministry program at St. Norbert College Parish while she attained her degree, but still had to answer to someone. "During my internship, there was someone above me," Wendy says. "So everything I did [I had to ask], 'Am I allowed to have a movie night this week?' And now when a letter needs to be sent to the confirmation kids, I just send it, which in a lot of ways is far more efficient. It is fun to plan your own program."

In addition to the heavy schedule of planning Generations of Faith for next year, Wendy spends time conceiving events that middle and high schoolers might want to attend. "I would love to see something happen where the kids are actually willing to take off from some of their other

activities to be [at church]," Wendy says, "and hang out doing something spiritual but fun and relevant to their lives." Wendy says that will take a little time.

Once the transition has settled more, she looks forward to serving an already thriving youth group. She has seen many of her kids serving in a lot of capacities in the church already. "I don't know if everyone realizes that, but the kids are really doing a lot. I think that's really great, and I would like to see that continue."

She also looks forward to spending more time to get to know them. "I love hanging out with the kids. The kids are the best. There's no bad kid. Just seeing them at church is great. Once they get to know you and they're excited to see you, it makes you feel real good."



Wendy Morrison
Director of Youth Ministry

Joined the parish staff in 2008.



Ellen and Robert Seay were married during the 4:30pm liturgy on February 14, 2009.



MEET OUR
Pastoral
Council



Vivian Hughes



Julie Nolan

April 6, 2009
Pastoral Council Minutes
by Steve Gardipee

Council members went into another session this month with a full agenda. The three prominent items for discussion were finances, preliminary budget discussions and cluster council objectives.

Mark Steimle reported a slight net loss for the previous month where expenses slightly outpaced revenues. However, expenses are tracking well behind the budget. Because revenues are down from last year, the budget for the coming period has been adjusted down to meet lower income projections. The preliminary budget was distributed to Council Members for general review. Mark indicated that the ASC suggests that this budget be passed as a "deficit" budget with the understanding that this is a one-year occurrence. The impact of the impending FIOF campaign on current and future revenues related to it cannot be fully understood at this time. However, because FIOF is based

on "stewardship principles", there is an overall positive affect on giving.

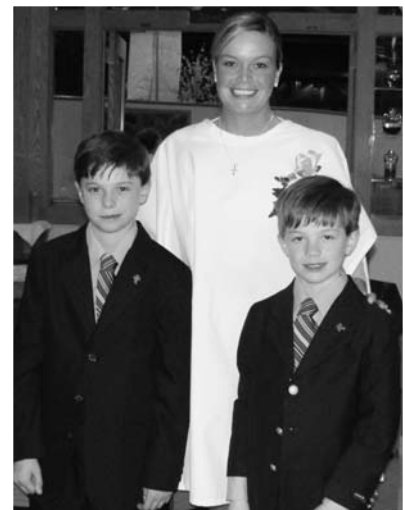
Julie Nolan, as Cluster Council (CC) representative, reported the CC met last Tuesday and received a "Vision 21" update from the archdiocese. The archdiocesan director suggests that planning "be from the bottom up." As the clusters become more active, it becomes clear that some "clusters of parishes" do not work well and now is the time to address this issue.

There is a sense on the part of Good Shepherd participants that CC activity and planning has been slow when activity should be ramped up. The Vision 21 ministry plan requires that clusters have a written plan by June 20, 2010. There was a sense among Good Shepherd Council Members that we as a parish should take the leadership role toward meeting the June 2010 deadline.

The next Cluster Council

meeting is June 2. To be better prepared for this meeting, the Pastoral Council will meet in a longer session in May for discussion on what aspects are needed for "finding" a cluster partner. Some of the aspects for initial consideration may be:

- Does the other parish host a GOF program?
- Should we partner with a parish with a vibrant school?
- If we have a sister church with a school, what will the details of the relationship be?
- Are we committed to keeping our own staff as is or is it feasible to share personnel?
- What are the values of the sister parish?
- Do we need to work with people who have a sense of mission? A spirit of cooperation?
- What part does the commitment to outreach play. e.g. 5% tithing?
- What part would liturgical and musical similarities play?



TOP: Jaclyn Krueger is baptised at Easter Vigil.
LEFT: Jaclyn Krueger, Koster Silvernail (left) and Spencer Silvernail (right) were confirmed during the Vigil and received First Eucharist.

Why Am I Involved In Faith In Our Future?

By Tom Dueppen



Joyce & Tom Dueppen

The standard answer to that question is that I am an active parishioner, a life-long practicing Catholic, and specifically for me, I believe that Faith In Our Future has good goals: "To strengthen Catholic education and faith formation for the future of the Church."

But the special incentive, and part of why I am involved as a Contact Leader was the fact that Good Shepherd

does not need the money in the same ways many other parishes do, and has decided to remain true to it's mission and share a portion of what it receives from this campaign for "special good purposes."

I would hope that with the outreach portion we could establish an education endowment fund for our brothers and sisters in Ellacuria.

FAITH
IN OUR FUTURE

www.faithinourfuture.org

Commitment Weekend

May 9/10

Return your
Commitment Pledge
Cards at church on
May 9/10.

Immigration

by Barb Messerknecht and Meriel Christensen

On Palm Sunday we heard Fr. Mich talk about people in the crucifixion story being swayed by myths and half truths. An immigration study group is emerging at Good Shepherd. We are looking for the myths and half truths about immigration.

We hear stories of families who are being separated without warning or even having time to say goodbye. The children are frightened and don't understand what is happening to their parents. Imagine yourself in such a place. What would Jesus do? What would you expect Jesus to do for you?

We are trying to determine the truths and the myths and where we fit into the picture.

Local speakers have brought current informa-

tion to our meetings.

Recently Sr. Barbara Pfarr SSND shared her experiences with the immigration work of Micah/Wisdom, Milwaukee and S.E. Wisconsin community organizations, and many other resources.

Scripture calls us to compassion regarding all of

our sisters and brothers.

Good Shepherd was founded on social justice action. Our founding pastor took his new parishioners out to march for open housing in Menomonee Falls. Might they be standing up for immigration reform today?

"We are trying to determine the truths and the myths and where we fit into the picture."



A group of parishioners have been gathering regularly to explore issues related to immigration. All are invited to join the group to learn more. Pictured left to right: Fran Fryer, Barb Messerknecht, Gene Christensen, Sr. Barbara Pfarr SSND, and Frank Ehl.

Volunteer for the Health of It

By Laverne Schoonover, RN

A recent article in Health Bytes informed you of the power that love has to heal. Did you know that the volunteering you do to help others can also help you? Not only is it a great way to stay socially connected, but volunteering provides a sense of purpose and vitality as we age. When you learn about the social issues facing your community and when you help face them, you will improve not only your psychological well-being but your physical health as well.

It has been found, that older people who volunteer have lower rates of heart disease and live longer than others who do not.

So how do you get started?

Identify your interests

What do you like to do, what's fun and makes you happy? Perhaps you can contribute some of the skills and strengths you have developed throughout life.

Identify the opportunities that exist

Some places that need help, besides the many that Good Shepherd offers, are: Community Memorial Hospital, food banks, Habitat for Humanity, ProLiteracy, Volunteers of America, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Etc.

For help in reaching these sources or others, call Laverne Schoonover

@262-251-3968.

As you get older, you have lots to offer your community. Through the skills and wisdom gained from a lifetime of experiences you will help yourself while helping others.

Teddy Roosevelt once said, "What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for our community lives long after we are gone"



"Not only is it a great way to stay socially connected, but volunteering provides a sense of purpose and vitality as we age."



To further the spiritual growth of the Good Shepherd Community by providing an inspirational view of parish life.

YOUR GREEN CORNER

by Mary Kult

April Showers Bring May Flowers and weeds, spring cleaning and gardening.

We sing *America the Beautiful*, as we contemplate the wonder of those micro-organisms necessary to all forms of life on earth that are destroyed by pesticides, insecticides and herbicides.

What can we do?

- Consider rain barrels that you can use for watering your gardens.
- Plant a victory garden; include your children or your neighbors to share in the project.
- Join a local food co-op.
- Help the farmers out by shopping your local food markets.
- Consider biking to work.



- Good Shepherd is maintaining the church with all green cleaning supplies. When shopping for your green cleaning supplies, be sure to read the labels since not all advertised green supplies are truly green.
- Check your air conditioner for any leaking Freon, which would add to destroying the ozone layer. Consider fans, closing the shades and running the air conditioner as little as possible.

Regarding lawn maintenance:

- Check your lawn pH—kits are available at Home Depot.
- Consider using milorganite and control use of toxins by treating each weed individually.
- Use non-toxic lawn maintenance, such as aerating lawn frequently, controlling thatch, proper watering and mowing lawn at a high setting leaving two inches of grass.

You can call Rodale Press at (215) 967- 5171 for other ideas. Another option would be to call The National Coalition against Misuse of Pesticides at (202) 543-5470 or 1-800-858-7378.

This is God's World, lets give it the respect it's due! It's not easy being green.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

BREAKING BREAD

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