

In Your Midst

A JOURNAL FOR ST. JAMES' CATHEDRAL PARISH



Pentecost 2008

In Your Midst

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"I am in your midst as one who serves."

From the great oculus high above the altar of St. James Cathedral, these words of Jesus communicate His abiding presence among us. This inscription gave us the name for our Journal and continues to be our guiding inspiration.

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*Icon of Pentecost.
Joan Brand-Landkamer
Cathedral Iconographer*



The Spirit Alive

*Parishioners offer meditations on the gifts of the Holy Spirit
at St. James Cathedral*

People sometimes ask me what I like best about being pastor of St. James Cathedral and I find I can never give a short answer. There's not any one thing; there's a whole host of things. All of them do have one thing in common, however, and it's the people. Whether it's celebrating Sunday or weekday Mass with the community, baptizing babies, anointing the sick or visiting them in the hospital, counseling people in my office, helping prepare young couples for marriage, greeting people at the Cathedral doors or in the Hall after Sunday Mass, chatting with altar servers in the sacristy, sitting in meetings too many to count, teaching a Baptism, Confirmation or Welcome Back class, meeting new parishioners at a newcomers' reception—I could go on and on—it's always people.

Several times a year I have the privilege of gathering with the RCIA people who are preparing to come into the Church. Some of them have never been baptized and others have been baptized in other Christian churches. I always look forward to these gatherings. Sitting and listening to people share their stories of faith is always a holy—and wholly moving—experience. And no two stories are ever alike. So often I feel like I should remove my shoes as Moses did when he encountered God in the burning bush. That's because, like Moses, I know I am standing on holy ground. What an amazing thing it is to be able to witness the marvelous and mysterious workings of God's grace in people's lives!

But even though people's stories are wonderfully different, they do sound similar notes. Invariably, in reciting their stories of faith, people tell about coming to St. James Cathedral for the first time. They tell of the welcome they got and the warmth they felt; they speak about the beauty of the music and the power of the prayer; they talk about finding God here and feeling "at home." Sometimes they even mention a homily they heard! And almost to a person they speak about the vibrant community of St. James and all that



goes on here in the name of Jesus Christ – not just on Sundays but every day of the week.

The stories that follow are stories about the spirit of St. James but what they really are is stories about how the Holy Spirit is alive at St. James. A good subject almost anytime, wouldn't you agree? But it's especially good during the Easter season when we celebrate the presence among us of the Spirit of the Risen Jesus.

Father Michael G. Ryan

I have a gold cross given me by a girlfriend after my baptism at age 16 in a small community church in Tacoma. By the time I was in college the cross and gold chain ended up in a jewelry box as I had become disenchanted with organized religion as I came to know it, with its dogma and finger pointing judgments. Where was the Spirit I felt with me as a teenager? To "roll the tape forward" I went through the doors of St. James Cathedral for the first time in early 2000, gently nudged by my husband (Dave—now deceased) who was confirmed in March of that year.

Still defensive (and rather indifferent) something about St. James grabbed my attention. What was

it? To find out I joined the RCIA process and—Wow! You mean we are encouraged to actually think about, as well as discuss, Scripture? We are allowed to question and probe? There is no “right way” or “wrong way”? That was when I first felt the living presence of the Holy Spirit here at St. James. I could be myself with all my faults and foibles. I literally, and figuratively “laid down my arms” and resisted no more. (In some ways I think the Presence was working overtime with me!)

On the fourth Sunday of Lent Father Ryan’s homily stated, in part, that “faith isn’t a possession, it’s a process. It isn’t a neatly packaged set of beliefs, it’s a way of living and looking at all of life. Faith is a growing thing—full of surprises and set-backs.” Upon reflection I believe that is how I felt when confirmed in 2001. The living presence of the Holy Spirit is in the lasting and supportive friendships made, the ministries in which I volunteer, the liturgies and the music—all that makes St. James Cathedral the welcoming, loving and living place it is. A place where faith is a growing thing.

It wasn’t long before I took that gold cross out of the jewelry box and now I wear it once more. It now has a companion: a small gold scallop shell.

Shirley Wright

Ten years ago my husband and I were looking for something. We were so entrenched in our daily lives that we hadn’t noticed what was missing. What was missing was the Spirit and we found it the first time we attended Mass at St. James Cathedral.

We still feel the wonder and awe of God’s presence in this Cathedral. This place is nonjudgmental. It has supported us through family baptisms, weddings, sicknesses and deaths. It doesn’t ask where we’ve come from. It only asks where we are going. In turn, we find ourselves asking what we can do to make our world a better place for our being here. This is the Spirit at work.

It was pretty easy to put things off. We weren’t sure what talents we had. When exactly would we have the time to give back to God? My sixtieth birthday played a part in my decision making. Was I going to wait until I was 80 before the Spirit moved me?

We saw unlimited opportunities to help at St.



James and in our community. We thought about how to use our unique talents, our passions, to make a difference. My husband chose to provide training and mentorship to new low income and minority food businesses. I volunteered to teach art classes at a Rainbow School. There is some sacrifice in what we do but it is far outweighed by the joy of knowing that our passion is now in serving the Spirit. Thank you, St. James.

Suzy Martineau Banchemo

“How are you going to continue your journey?” she asked. “You may want to seek out one of our ministries; don’t think about it too long, try something like the soup kitchen and if it doesn’t suit you volunteer for another ministry.” It was Helen Oesterle speaking to a group of catechumens approaching the end of their RCIA journey to baptism. I turned to a fellow catechumen, named Herb: “Well, I don’t think it will be the choir!” I joked. We laughed. Herb, like me, was a pretty much a monotone; our faith and time in RCIA had brought us together.

“Hmmm, continue the journey, volunteer?” I mused. “I’ll think about it.” A few weeks later I saw in the bulletin the need for van drivers. I could drive and the commitment was only one hour per month; I suppose I could do that if they really needed the help. I didn’t realize it then, but the Holy Spirit was about to take me on a journey of caring, friendship and love.

I learned the van route and the stops to pick up the elderly parishioners. And that is when it began to

happen. I realized that “ministry” isn’t about the time or even the task; it’s about the people you serve and touch. The senior ladies that ride overflow with grace and gratitude for simply being driven to Sunday Mass. The warm smile they give for the extension of a steady arm or the heartfelt “God bless you” upon a safe return moves me to great joy and more kindness. I relish the conversation among them in the van; they are beautiful people. Now I cannot wait for my driving week to come, I am concerned

for them if they miss a Sunday; they have become a part of my St. James community. Oh, and if I get lost, they are great with directions accompanied by a warm smile.

One Sunday as I picked up the van keys Herb was there. He had volunteered to drive the other van. Now every first Sunday Herb and I sit together (close to the north entry so as to exit quickly to prepare the vans for the return trip) and share our faith through Mass and communion. It is all a wonderful experience. Is this the Holy Spirit at work? Is it the Holy Spirit that connects us and inflames the loving joy we feel for each other? How is it possible that driving a van can reap so much community, caring and love?

It is and it does.

Landy Manuel

I came back to the Catholic Church because of a happenstance visit to St. Ignatius Chapel while my car was being repaired nearby. I went to a few Masses there, and somehow I heard about Great Music for Great Cathedrals at St. James, and decided to attend. After twenty-six years of attending various Protestant churches, hearing this Great Music—and I mean GREAT—I knew the Cathedral had the makings of a church for me which I had not found in any others.

The Cathedral—just the building itself—is such a quieting, special place that you can feel the Holy Spirit



all around. I love sitting in different places just to experience the many different windows, shadows, candles, statues—and the fragrance of the many years of incense, baptisms, candles—all of these together help me focus on the Threesome, Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit.

The variety of the people, their friendliness, kindness, bringing their families, the times at Christmas when you see generations together at church, all of this speaks of the Holy Spirit, very much at work in all of their lives.

I love the liturgy—I learn so much from hearing the readings and the Gospel—and the homilies, helping me apply them to my own life and goals. Just experiencing the celebration of the Eucharist with so many others shows our desire to live out the mandates of the Lord and our Church, and cements our commitment.

For me, the crowning jewel is the music. The choir singing, the cantor chanting the psalm, the organ playing, the bells ringing, all are so beautiful, so meaningful, that it seems everyone in the Cathedral is held in rapture. Hearing the organs played at various concerts makes the evening time, for me, a bringing of the Threesome to a wonderful closeness surrounding us listeners. At those moments the Cathedral becomes the home of the Holy Spirit.

Mary Denney



The Holy Spirit guided me to St. James Cathedral in 2005. Pope John Paul II had just passed and I felt moved to kneel in prayer for the future of our Church. Shortly thereafter, my first cousin was killed serving in Iraq. The Holy Spirit found me in pain and grief, and helped me find a pathway to peace: the Sacraments. In addition to the mysterious guidance of the Holy Spirit, I am also supported by the wonderful parishioners and staff of St. James, the liturgies, the music, and most importantly, the prayer life of the parish community. All of these aspects have pointed me toward Jesus Christ and I am so blessed to be part of the diverse and loving community of St. James.

Whether I am serving with others in the hospitality ministry after Mass, tutoring an ESL student, or discussing Catholic Social Teachings and social injustice in JustFaith, I am being prepared to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. My prayer life, private and communal, and the many ministries of St. James are a bridge to eternal life, and I am deeply grateful that the Holy Spirit always finds me when I'm lost and supplies me with ample fortitude to begin again to walk the path of our Lord.

Elizabeth Falzone

Dear Holy Spirit,
I wonder how you can be so many other places when you seem to be always and everywhere at St. James Cathedral. You are pervasive in the liturgies, the music, the priests, readers, cantors, volunteers.

I first met you there when my husband and I started attending the cathedral in 1996. We lived in Seattle for four months during Bob's eye surgeries, and hosted a Bible study group at our Virginia Mason apartment. I began attending choir practices as well. Let me tell you. You are alive and well at choir practice! (In fact, if any parishioners want a full dose of your presence, try an SRO spot in the hallway on Thursday night.) We not only learn great choral works by great composers, we get our fill of church doctrine as Jim Savage explains the proper musical and theological interpretations of the great texts we are singing, so that the full meaning can come through to the congregation. Our children and friends have come, at our invitation, to St. James to experience the awesome spiritual power of the All Souls Day Requiems and the Great Music for Great Cathedrals programs.

You were on at least three Cathedral pilgrimages: to Italy in 1997, to France, Spain and Portugal in 2001, and to Italy again in 2006. You were present in the music, the musicians, the pilgrims, and the sacred places we visited. (I know you were on the other pilgrimages, too, but I wasn't a witness to those.) Whenever we travel, we try to schedule Sunday at St. James. Our daughter will attend the choir camp this summer. I know you will be there, too.

I was welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church on April 6, 2008, at a Mass at Holy Family Cathedral, Anchorage, Alaska, celebrated by Archbishop Francis Hurley. My experiences with you at St. James Cathedral were pivotal in my decision to become a Catholic.

I know that even though you are very busy at St. James, you are not ignoring all the other places and people who need you, too.

Love in Christ,

Letha Schwiesow
Anchorage, Alaska

My father was a very generous man, albeit with few worldly possessions. His favorite saying around the subject of giving and serving was, "don't give 'til it hurts; give 'til you get blessed." For me, his attitude captures the essence of living in the Spirit. Am I the one who serves, or am I the one being served? Not long after coming to St. James, I responded to an invitation to become a Eucharistic Minister; it was an

opportunity that created equal parts trepidation and exhilaration. I wanted to serve, but felt rather inadequate. In the weeks of preparation for our commissioning, I could see that certain actions in my daily life were incongruous with acting as a minister on Sundays; actions that were not fully in the Spirit of Christian love. I began to ask the Spirit to change my attitudes and behaviors in order to reflect to my fellow parishioners the generosity of the Holy Spirit toward me. My ongoing participation in ministry leaves me with the sense that I'm the one who is receiving the blessing. In turn, the sense of being blessed increases my awareness of the guidance of the Spirit when I am moved to give and serve in other ways.

Rex Wardlaw

The Holy Spirit has been most present to me in RCIA. I first attended without expecting much and not thinking I would like it. I chose to stay in the program for two years because of its rich guidance and support. The Holy Spirit seemed present on Wednesday evenings, when a thoughtful teacher would expand the boundaries of my comprehension, and sponsors and team members treated me with warmth and acceptance. The Holy Spirit was present in my sponsor, for example the night I was angry and disappointed about the behavior of an extended family member, and she listened quietly and loved me in my harsh criticalness. The Holy Spirit was present during dismissals on Sunday mornings, when we candidates and catechumens shared our journeys with each other, sometimes in long silences, sometimes laughing, sometimes weeping together. And the Holy Spirit was present during my Rite of Reception on February 19, 2006. I will never forget this long-awaited moment in front of you all, with the women of the choir softly singing the *Veni creator spiritus* and my sponsor's arm supporting me, while Father Ryan made the sign of the cross with holy oil on my forehead.

Becky Brauer



My faith formation has depended heavily on my relationship with Chuck D'Ambrosio, my RCIA sponsor and close friend. Ours was a spirit-filled relationship from the beginning. We quickly discovered that the RCIA process was so enriching that we couldn't get enough of it in the regular sessions. We started having private sessions every Tuesday, which included dinner, reflection, and discussion. These sessions continue to this day. Sometimes we show up at the adult education classes, and other times we forge into new territory on our own, accompanied by writings of the Christian mystics. We can also apply our faith to solving issues of social justice, or our personal problems. Now we just have to convince the rest of the world to see things our way. As Chuck evolved from a limp to a wheelchair, our relationship profoundly deepened. I was fortunate to be able to help him establish a new living situation, and, more simply, to get to Mass. Through this experience, we are bonded to sharing Mass every Sunday morning, and we throw in pancakes afterward. The Holy Spirit compels us to laugh, and cry, as we embrace our challenges. The love and support that we share with the St. James community reminds us that God is here.

Jeff Virgin

The liturgy at St. James has a way of revealing the Holy Spirit in ways that are unmistakable and unforgettable. We were so blessed to experience His presence in an especially



powerful way not long ago in the sacrament of marriage, and we did not foresee the even more powerful experiences that lay ahead, in our baby daughter's first liturgy, and later, in her baptism. The overwhelming joy, love, and sense of community we felt in these events could only be the work of the Holy Spirit. Is it the magnificent structure of the Cathedral that opens our eyes and our hearts to His presence? The music? The genuine faith of the congregation? The ministry and outreach of the parish to the community? No doubt, it is all of these things and more. We thank the Lord often for the blessing of having the very incipience and growth of our new family intertwined with this holy place of worship and community of faith that is St. James, and we look forward to each and every liturgy and event in which we now take part as a family.

Julie and Steve Shaw

From the outside the building is calm steady and sturdy.
Inside the Holy Spirit reverberates from all things.

The Spirit is in the rejoicing voices
of the choir
that raise their praise to the Lord.
In the trumpet players,
who proudly proclaim the presence
of the Spirit.
The Spirit is the spirit of God and of Jesus,
an armor that any one can wear.
The Spirit is the light that bathes the altar
in a golden glow.
The light that can warm the hearts
of those in misery
and illustrate the love of the people.
It is the soft echo
of private whispered prayers.
As well as the public declarations of faith.
The Holy Spirit presents itself every day.
As the opportunity to help those less fortunate,
and in need of a helping hand.
It shows itself in the glow of a candle
lighting the way.
In both prayer and silence
you can find the Holy Spirit,

speaking specially to you.
 In the kind action of a stranger
 that makes you feel grateful and
 joyful.
 The Spirit is in the body and blood of
 Christ
 and in those who come to God's
 house
 to pray and worship.
 The Holy Spirit is in
 you,
 and me,
 and the whole community.

Mairead Corrigan

At some point I decided that life was all about succeeding in things that affect me and the people I love. I tend to slice and dice things till I can deal with them so I somehow broke this huge problem into two pieces. The tangible things I needed to achieve and the intangibles that make it all worthwhile.

There was never much doubt that hard work was the way to go after the tangibles. That's to say the house, the job, the vacations, the low emission car, the flat screen TV at a reasonable price.

Now how do I make a success of my family, friendships or my community? These didn't always seem important but when work sucked too much out, these other things always helped. It seemed that balance was the key and that faith in something outside of myself would help. So I acquired Thomas à Kempis books, attempted to understand words like pneumatology, all sorts of things that I admit made me sleepy.

And then St. James happened. The liturgies draw on the wisdom of the ages and give me a setting to think calmly. The outreach ministries put me in touch with many people who already have what I am looking for or are looking for the same things as me. Occasionally a realization hits like a new strings of lights on my Christmas tree suddenly lighting up. Not that I'm hanging up the mission accomplished banner, but it's a start and the journey is fun.

I guess what I'm saying is that being a part of St. James and its outreach ministries has given me a way to continue the quest for balance and happiness – at a reasonable price.

Jijo Jose



In Scripture, the Spirit manifests itself in remarkable ways: rushing wind, tongues of flame, a brilliant white dove. Unmistakable signs saying, "Pay attention! Nothing will ever be as important!"

Those signs seem frustratingly absent today. In a culture that appears to validate only what is strident, we find ourselves craving bold signs of the Spirit's presence. We long for the Spirit to overcome once and for all the excessiveness and selfishness of our society.

I believe the Spirit manifests itself at St. James in quieter, but equally remarkable ways. The star field of flames in the Mary Shrine, individually representing a fervent prayer of hope or thanksgiving, together shedding brilliant light on the dark places of our souls. A volunteer's simple act of greeting at the Cathedral Kitchen, perhaps the only kind words the guest may hear that day. Soft chanting during the Cathedral's reconciliation services, as if the Spirit is saying, "I forgive you. Now, forgive yourself." Quiet moments that compel us to listen to the ineffable in each of our souls.

I've come to believe that by using humbler signs, the Spirit reminds us of something fundamental but often forgotten in the rush of our days: don't waste your time searching the extravagance of this world—you won't find Me there. Seek Me in the calm and hushed moments and in so doing, you'll find Me in the depths of your own heart where I have always been and will always be.

Mark Schoen

Our Holiest Week

A Photo Essay





Images of Holy Week. On the facing page, reading from top to bottom: Blessing of Palms on Palm Sunday—children's procession, left; and solemn procession at the 10 o'clock Mass, right. Archbishop Brunett washes the feet of parishioners on Holy Thursday, left; the clergy kneel in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at the conclusion of the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, right. Father Patrick Howell, SJ, preaches on the Seven Last Words at Tre Ore. Below, the clergy prostrate themselves before the altar on Good Friday. This page: Images of the Good Friday liturgy—veneration of the cross and the communion service. Photos on these pages by M & C Laughlin.





The Resurrection of the Lord. *On the facing page:* Archbishop Brunett blesses the new fire on the west plaza of the Cathedral: "Make this new fire holy, and inflame us with new hope." The tapers of the assembly illuminate the Cathedral during the singing of the Easter Proclamation: "Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!" The Cathedral is dramatically illuminated during the Gloria. Twenty Elect were baptized during the Vigil this year, 15 adults and 5 young people. Confirmations follow the baptisms. *On this page:* renewal of baptismal promises, above; and congratulations to our twenty neophytes! *All photos of the Easter Vigil by Mike Penney.* Right: Eucharist on Easter morning. *Photo by Michael Garrison.* Below, Easter procession. *Photos by M. Laughlin.*



Putting God First

Learning about discipleship through prayer, study, and faith sharing

In January, 2006, Father Ryan convened a group of twenty Cathedral parishioners to study the concept of stewardship. Was this concept something we wanted to bring to our Cathedral parish? If so, how? For six weeks, the group met on Saturday mornings, discussing the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, Stewardship: A Disciple's Response. The people's initial skepticism changed gradually over the course of six weeks to a desire to make this opportunity for study and faith sharing available to the entire Cathedral Parish. The result was "Putting God First," a five-week 'retreat' based on the Pastoral letter. This series has now been offered three times, Fall of 2006, and Lent in 2007 and 2008. Some three hundred parishioners have participated. We invited some of our facilitators to reflect on the experience and to tell the story of "Putting God First." These are their stories.

Maria Laughlin

Having the opportunity to study, pray and reflect on the Bishops' letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response* with Father Ryan and a group of parishioners brought me to an understanding of the spirituality of stewardship. It is the joy of discipleship and the joy of being a Christian. Our experience was so profound that we recommended making a similar experience of study and discernment available to the parish in the form of "Putting God First."

After meeting for several Saturday mornings, we were sorry not to have another meeting scheduled. But the best part is that we meet one another regularly in the context of the parish and elsewhere in the greater community.

What is most rewarding to me is that we now have provided the experience to over 300 parishioners and the facilitators and hosts are parishioners and not parish staff! We have a new energy and spirit in the parish. Our vision of 'walking the talk' and teaching by example is becoming a reality.

Rose Southall

Our first session was on Valentine's Day – a chilly damp Seattle night. I was nervous, wondering who would show up and how I, an introvert, would lead a group of people I had never met through a Lenten journey. I had studied the excellent materials and was prepared with notes

and post-its in place. I had an experienced and gracious co-host, Liz Shier. But I knew I needed to do one more thing—to get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit work.

The Holy Spirit did just that. People showed up. They created a community, and journeyed through Lent together. They discovered that the call to stewardship was everywhere they looked. They shared their stories and insights. It was amazing.

In the end, email addresses were exchanged, connections were made, and it felt like individuals moved forward on their journey. For some, a specific idea was formed, an action was decided upon. For others, the process of discernment began and deepened. For me, it was simply a blessing.

Peggy Jarrett

Tracy and I were invited to participate in one of the first groups formed, and to be quite honest, we did not know what to think about the "stewardship" word. Did that mean that the church was going to ask us to give more money? After all, that is what one seems to naturally think when you are asked to be a steward. We were not the only ones who thought that, as we found out later, but we were all very surprised at the idea that first session, to realize that being a good steward means so much more!

Since that first session, Tracy and I have facilitated a group of 18 parish faithful, most of whom have continued to meet together once a month. We have grown to be a family, and our faith, and our awareness of the ways to be good stewards have grown dramatically. One person in our group, Leslie Frost, put it so well: "Putting God First has opened my eyes, and heart to the many ways we can and should be good stewards; of and for the church, but it goes so much deeper than that, we also need to be good stewards of all that is around us."

This year, I was fortunate to be part of a third group, as a host to 14-18 people who brought even more to the meaning of "stewardship." I am always amazed at the wonderful, thoughtful, treasures that these people continue to be.

All of the people I have met along this journey have been so different, and diverse in many ways:

insightful, caring—wanting fellowship, religious, knowledgeable, new Catholics, cradle Catholics, non-Catholic, but the common thread that ran through each group has been that all of these people have embraced the idea of being a good steward, and putting God First!

I continue to pray that each and every person in our parish, and every parish, can experience what it means to be a good steward.

Liz Shier

Facilitating and participating in this Lenten journey for the third year has been a joy for me. This year we met with fellow Eucharistic Ministers, every Saturday morning.

The most meaningful experience for me was to spend more time with EM's I know from sharing our ministry, visiting briefly before and after liturgies. In this group of very committed Christians we were able to look deeper into our relationship with God, with one another and with people we meet daily in our lives. As the weeks passed we all came to value our time together; the only criticism was that there was not enough time. So we have decided to continue our meetings monthly.

Kathy Lewis

I love being a facilitator. It's true sometimes the group members want to take conversational detours. Yes, it's true that the facilitator has to put in the time to learn material just like a teacher

does. And, redirecting a too-talkative participant is challenging. Still, I love helping people learn about Putting God First and I especially appreciate assisting them discover a new sense of community.

On that score I remember well a session of "Putting God First" in October, 2006. It was early in the life of a group I was facilitating. On that night, at that particular moment, we were sharing about how God had become a warm place in our lives. A couple of people had spoken up and during a pause in the conversation, a soft-spoken clean-cut young man, chimed in. He spoke of how an addiction had caused havoc in his life. Many of his relationships had been ruined. It had cost him his job and he'd been forced to live on the street. Like the prodigal son, his life had hit bottom and he came to his senses. He returned to Christ and to the Catholic Church. Over time his family relationships were restored and his life, now stabilized, held new promise.

Needless to say, that was quite a mouthful and his sharing caught all of us off-guard. When he finished – and I could gather my wits -- I thanked him for his honesty and for trusting us with his story. It was a moment in group life I'll never forget!

I think it's fair to say our group was never the same after that. The young man's sharing had taken us to new depths of trust and connection with one another. His openness inspired openness in the others. In fact, the experience created a powerful and lasting sense of community among us that remains to this day.

John Simpson

We invited participants during Lent, 2008, to respond to the question, "What did you find most valuable in this five-week process?" Here are some of their answers.

- Being my first time in a group like this I didn't know what to expect. I think what I loved most was meeting these wonderful people and learning how God is using each one of us.
- I learned that stewardship does not just mean giving money!
- The group was very diversified which was excellent because we were all coming from different places on our journey.
- Listening to others and their lives; learning the extent of what others do/contribute/serve.
- Getting to know other parishioners, listening and learning from their walk with God.
- The time to focus more directly and deeply on Jesus in my life and everyday experience.
- The community and open discussion about what people have done and what they want to do. The excitement of learning and reading, how this all fits together with our gifts, talents, and abilities.
- Witnessing and hearing the faith of others,
- learning where they are in stewardship and "Putting God First."
- Two things stand out. The time allotted for discussion in groups was invaluable. I'm enormously grateful for their insight. And, the materials that supplement the book are top notch—very challenging questions and terrific reflections.
- Hearing the stories of others—it has opened up my understanding to the possibilities of stewardship. The sharing has also been an inspiration to listen more carefully for the call.
- I learned that stewardship isn't necessarily the "big" things, but even and especially the smaller things that count. I never really thought of that.
- The opportunity to set some designated time aside to read and reflect on the assigned readings and to participate with others in open discussions
- I'm always amazed at the insights from a small group—often ideas totally different from my own thoughts.
- Thank you for this opportunity. I enjoyed the small group discussions that led to sharing of a personal nature and knowing new friends.

The Year of St. Paul

Celebrating the second millennium of the birth of the great apostle

Beginning on June 29, 2008—the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul—the Church throughout the world will observe a year dedicated to the Apostle Paul. Catholics and Orthodox, and Christians of many other denominations as well, will mark this special year—the second millennium of the apostle’s birth—by reflecting on his words, seeking his intercession, and following the ancient pilgrim way that leads to the great Basilica which rises above the tomb of the apostle, just outside the ancient walls of Rome.

WHO WAS PAUL?

The *Acts of the Apostles* and Paul’s own letters provide us with a wealth of detail about the life of St. Paul—more than we have about any other apostle, with the possible exception of Peter. We know that Paul (his Jewish name was ‘Saul’) was from Tarsus, a large, multicultural city in what is now Turkey. Raised in the strict observance of the Jewish faith, he was in fact a Pharisee, one of those rigid and correct observers of the Law with whom Jesus so often found himself in conflict. Paul persecuted the followers of “the Way” until his encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. A well-educated man, Paul spoke several languages, knew the Hebrew scriptures intimately, and was familiar with Greek rhetorical devices as well. We know that Paul was a working man, a tentmaker (Acts 18: 3). Even when he was traveling and preaching he continued to support himself by the work of his hands (I Thessalonians 2: 9). In describing his own background, Paul showed his pride in his Jewish roots: “Circumcised on the eighth day, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew parentage, in observance of the law a Pharisee, in zeal I persecuted the church, in righteousness based on the law I was blameless” (Philippians 3: 5).

The *Acts of the Apostles* and Paul’s letters also tell us much about Paul’s life after his conversion to Jesus



Christ. Though some were at first suspicious of this persecutor-turned-apostle, Peter and the others soon came to acknowledge the genuineness of Paul’s call, especially his call to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul, in turn, acknowledged the special role of Peter, and visited Jerusalem to consult with him several times. But Paul did not hesitate to challenge Peter when he felt he was wrong, particularly on the status of Gentiles in the new faith. While some insisted that non-Jewish believers must observe the entire Jewish law, Paul argued that this was an unnecessary burden—and Peter and the others eventually saw things Paul’s way.

Paul was constantly on the move, and both *Acts* and the letters provide detailed evidence of his missionary journeys, which took him from end to end of the ancient world, from Athens to Rome. Sometimes with other disciples, and sometimes alone, Paul preached the good news in small towns and large cities. In some places the message flourished; in others Paul endured sharp persecution for the faith. (For Paul’s own account of all he went through for the faith, see 2 Corinthians 11: 24-27.)

Acts concludes with Paul awaiting sentence in Rome. Tradition tells us that he met his death there by beheading around the year 62, during the reign of

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Nero. Over his remains rose one of the oldest Christian basilicas, that of Saint Paul outside the Walls. Recent archeological excavations beneath the Basilica, which has been rebuilt a number of times over the centuries, have confirmed the presence of the apostle's tomb below the papal altar.

ST. PAUL THE WRITER

Though he wrote no Gospel, Paul's New Testament letters have had an incalculable impact on the Church. The late Raymond Brown, SS, one of the greatest scripture scholars of the last century, said it definitively: "Next to Jesus Paul has been the most influential figure in the history of Christianity." The range of his letters, wrote Father Brown in his *Introduction to the New Testament*, "plus the depth of his thought and the passion of his involvement, have meant that since his letters became part of the New Testament, no Christian has been unaffected by what he has written. Whether or not they know Paul's works well, through what they have been taught about doctrine and piety, all Christians have become Paul's children in the faith."

Paul's letters—which scholars tell us predate all four of the Gospels by a dozen years or more—laid the groundwork for all Christian creeds and theology. They have shaped the very vocabulary we use to talk about our faith: Paul was "the first to coin a Christian meaning for the words *apostle*, *gospel*, *charism*, *ministry*," writes Pauline scholar Carolyn Osiek. Paul's letters have helped us to understand who Jesus is: truly human, and truly divine. They have opened up for us the meaning of the salvation Christ won for us on the cross.

More than anything else, perhaps, these letters addressed to struggling Christian communities continue to teach us what it means to live together as Christians. In his letters to far-flung communities Paul variously flatters, cajoles, mocks, mourns, instructs, condemns, pleads, and prays. He is at his harshest in writing to the Galatians, near the Black Sea: "I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel," he says roundly in the opening lines of this letter (1:6). He is at his gentlest, perhaps, in his letter to Philemon, in which he begs Philemon to receive Onesimus, a wayward slave, with forgiveness: "I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.... if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me" (12, 17). To Timothy, a nervous young bishop, he is full of good advice: "Stop drinking only water, but have a little wine for the sake of your stomach" (I Timothy 5: 23).

If Paul was hard on wayward Christian communities, he was equally hard on himself. He

never hesitated to use his own story to reveal the amazing grace of God. "You heard of my former way of life," he told the Galatians, "how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it" (1:13). "I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle... but by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective." (I Corinthians 14:10)

Paul was never one to avoid controversy, and his teachings on some subjects—especially the role of women—have sparked controversy through the years. But even as we struggle with these teachings, we should be open to the other side of St. Paul, the Paul who envisioned a Church so united, organic, and open to the Spirit that we are still coming to terms with all that might mean: "to each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.... you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it" (I Corinthians 12: 7, 27). One thing is certain: Paul will continue to teach, to challenge, to cajole, and to inspire as his letters are proclaimed in the liturgy day after day.

READING ST. PAUL

During the coming Year of St. Paul, there will be Bible studies and monthly bulletin inserts to help you enter more fully into the life and teaching of the great Apostle to the Gentiles. But there is no better way to observe this year than to do some reading on your own. In his useful book *101 Questions and Answers on Paul*, Father Ronald Witherup, SS provides some handy tips for approaching Paul.

1. Don't begin at the beginning. The letter to the Romans is the first of Paul's letters in the New Testament, but it is not the best place to plunge into St. Paul. Begin instead with one of the more practical letters—First Corinthians, First Thessalonians, or Philippians. Then move into the more complex letters, like Romans and Galatians.

2. Remember that these letters are letters—they are written in a specific context, to a specific community, and for a specific reason—not just to say hello! A good Bible commentary can help you to understand and appreciate this context. *The Catholic Study Bible*, edited by Father Donald Senior, is excellent.

3. Don't let the details get in the way of the message. Be aware that when Paul writes about hairstyles, for example (I Corinthians 11:3-16), he is addressing issues very closely tied to a specific time and place in history. Don't let these passages distract you from the vast majority of Paul's writings, which speak to Christians of every place and every time.

Saint Paul, pray for us! ♦

The Pew Next to You

Meet Carl Natelli, Rose Circo, & Mal & Elaine Moran

Two places to catch up with Carl Natelli—ten o'clock mass at St. James, west side, north aisle, second row, third seat from the center or at coffee hour following the ten o'clock mass surrounded by friends and others, likely in lively conversation about the church and the world. Carl will celebrate his 95th birthday on May 16.

Carl first came to the cathedral to sing with Dr. Palmer in the 1932's and played the Cathedral organ during World War II. Carl said he has special memories for Dr. Palmer and Monsignor Stafford.

"Monsignor Stafford was a great man, but was kicked out of the Cathedral by Bishop Shaughnessy."

"Some things I liked about the old church, but change is better," Carl said.

In the early 60's Carl helped build, design, and pay for the organ at St. Edward's Church in Rainier Valley.

Carl, who lives independently on First Hill, continues to read church-related and other topical books and engage in lively conversation about a wide variety of topics. In recent years, fellow parishioner and Eucharistic minister Greg Lane has given Carl a lift to church and to many of the organ concerts at St. James.

Happy Birthday, Carl!

Alison Warp

Rose Circo has been a parishioner of St. James Cathedral for a long time. In fifty-four years she's seen a lot of changes—four Archbishops, three pastors, and a community that went from 2,500 families down to 800 and back again, as the demographics of the



"Always dapper" Carl Natelli, pictured at the Parish Picnic last year with friends Sister Claudette Conrad and Greg Lane.

neighborhood have changed through the decades.

Rose has remained constant because, "St. James is my life. My second home. I love the church here. My family when they would visit would always say, 'We understand why you love it here!'"

Rose is the seventh of eight children. "There were ten of us—eight children, mother and dad. I'm the only one left." Rose came from Omaha, Nebraska, in 1954 to visit a friend. She stayed for six weeks, looking for a job. Not finding one she was all set to go back to Omaha when she was hired by the telephone company. She stayed thirty-one years, working in the office, retiring in 1985.

During all that time (except for two years when she lived in a boarding house to save money to put her brother through college), Rose has been a resident of First Hill. "The moment he graduated, I moved right back downtown," she says.

She remembers Bishop Gill well, and the Cathedral as it looked when she first arrived, with pews stretching all the way up to the altar on the east end. "I remember when we'd go to the O'Dea gym. I can still remember all the people who sat around me." And she remembers getting a secret sneak peek at the renovated Cathedral thanks to sacristan Jim Johnson. She's

Maria Laughlin is the Director of Stewardship and Development at St. James Cathedral.



Rose Circo has been a dedicated member of St. James Cathedral since 1954.

watched the parish change, too. "It used to be all grown ups," she says. Now there's an abundance of families and children.

Rose has been involved in many ministries at St. James. For many years, she helped prepare receptions for funerals, making coffee and cookies. She became an E.M. thanks to the encouragement of Sister Claudette, and still serves as an E.M. and altar server on Saturday evenings.

She's also traveled around the world on goodwill expeditions through InConTra, Inc., whose goal is to spread Christmas cheer to the needy—especially handicapped children—all over the world. Rose has visited England, Ireland, Scotland, Chile, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Switzerland, India, Africa, France, Turkey, and Greece!

"I've really enjoyed my life," Rose says. "I've got nothing to complain about."

She adds: "I'm turning 85 this year. Maybe I'll slow down a bit."

For Cathedral parishioners Mal and Elaine Moran, a vacation in Central America became a call to service of the poorest of the poor. Shortly after joining St. James Cathedral Parish in 2004, Mal and Elaine were on vacation in Belize. Noted for its snorkeling (both Mal and Elaine love to snorkel), as well as its caves, rain forest, and the second biggest barrier reef in the world, Belize (British Honduras until its independence in 1981), is also unique among Central American countries in that English is the primary language.

While traveling through the country, Mal and Elaine saw terrible poverty first-hand. "People living in thrown-together homes, wearing clothes that were nothing but tatters." It was celebrating Mass with a very poor community that was the turning point. "We went to Mass in a little town called Dangriga," says Mal. "It was then that we turned to each other and said, 'There must be something we can do to help.'"

Back home, after vain efforts to connect with the parish priest in Dangriga, they were able to connect with Jesuit Father Dick Perl, pastor of St. Peter Claver Church in Punta Gorda. Punta Gorda, with 6,000 inhabitants, is the largest town in the southern part of Belize. He was happy to help them help the poor of Belize, and suggested that an immediate need was library books for schools.

Elaine was a member of the Ecumenical Commission of the Archdiocese of Seattle at the time. She was able to tap some of her connections from the commission (including Sister Joyce Cox, acting Superintendent of Schools) and within a month—with a lot of help from Catholic Schools around the Archdiocese—had collected 1,000 books.

This was the beginning of New World Villages (www.newworldvillages.org), an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is "to work to increase the educational level, health, and human dignity of impoverished people living in the Americas." New World Villages has been able to take advantage of the strong Catholic presence already in Belize—a large network of schools and social services, both to determine the greatest need and help get it to those who need it most.

Their biggest project to date has been the creation of four computer labs this past summer. Acquiring matching grants from a variety of sources helped Mal and Elaine turn \$2,000 into \$25,000. "With that money we were able to purchase 80 refurbished computers along with fax machines, scanners, digital cameras, and printers," Mal says.

Then came the hard part: renting a 40-foot shipping container, packing it full of computers as well as 40 school desks and an abundance of medical



Mal and Elaine Moran, founders of New World Villages, have been parishioners at St. James since 2004.

supplies, and sending it off to Belize. The container went from Seattle to New York, from New York by boat to Jamaica, and from Jamaica to Belize.

Meanwhile, Elaine had been diagnosed with breast cancer and waited anxiously for the container to arrive in Belize so she could supervise its arrival between surgery and the beginning of radiation treatments. With assistance from local volunteers, after some long, hot days in July, the four labs were up and running. "The children could hardly wait to get their hands on those computers," Elaine remembers. And once the labs were up and running, Mal and Elaine still had time to get some snorkeling in!

Mal and Elaine are both "cradle Catholics," from large families. They have three boys between them, ages 20, 18, and 16. And they both love St. James. "I've experienced wonderful healing here," Elaine says. And Mal adds, "When I look up and see those words, I am in your midst as one who serves, above the altar, that thing speaks so loudly. What bigger message could there be? If you want to be Christ like, there's no better place to start."

Their next project? Pig farms. Building pigpens will be a new experience, but Mal and Elaine are ready for it. ♦

SAVE THE DATE!

St. James Cathedral presents the 12th annual
Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen

Charity Golf Tournament

*Supporting St. James Cathedral's
outreach programs to children,
the elderly & the homeless*

Monday, September 22, 2008
The Golf Club at Newcastle
Newcastle, Washington

Image of the Divine

Icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit

The traditional icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit is full of hidden meanings. It's not a representation of the historic event of Pentecost, but rather an invitation to meditate on the mystery of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

At the top of the icon we see the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, with twelve rays pointing down towards the twelve apostles. We see the twelve seated in a semicircle—symbolizing the unity of the Church; over the head of each is suspended a “tongue as of fire.” The upper room where they are gathered (in a metaphysical leap only possible in an icon!) is depicted as a backdrop, and perspective is distorted in that the figures in the foreground are *smaller* than those in the background. The importance of the apostles seated at the top of the circle is thus emphasized—St. Peter is on the left and St. Paul (another metaphysical leap!) is on the right. In this icon we can also find St. Mark (fourth down on the right) and St. Luke (third down on the left). Neither Paul, Mark, nor Luke were present on the day of Pentecost.

There is a wonderful variety to their expressions, costumes, and gestures, and yet a beautiful order and symmetry to the arrangement of their figures, suggestive of the unity that is the gift of the Spirit.

At the bottom of the icon is a crowned figure labeled “The World.” This figure is said to represent all people, living in darkness and sin (represented by the darkness behind him). In his hands he holds a cloth containing scrolls representing the teachings of the Apostles, who have carried the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

And, of course, the Cathedral's icon, created by iconographer Joan Brand-Landkamer, contains some



The Descent of the Holy Spirit. Joan Brand-Landkamer, Cathedral Iconographer

details that don't figure in any other! Look hard at the apostles and you'll find portraits of Father Ryan, James Savage, and Archbishop Murphy.

“When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men at Babel, he divided the nations. When he dispensed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.” (Prayer from the Greek Orthodox liturgy of Pentecost) ♦

Cathedral Almanac

Snapshots of life at St. James Cathedral, December 2007-March 2008

December

1. Madre de las Americas, the annual Archdiocesan celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, gathered people from across Western Washington for a lively and colorful celebration, complete with dancers, drummers, even a Mariachi band!

8. Simbang Gabi is a wonderful, colorful, prayerful way to prepare our hearts, in the company of Mary, for the coming of her Son, Jesus. Some 80 parishes brightened this celebration with their *parols*, symbolizing Christ, Light of the World.

14. Archbishop Brunett celebrated the tenth anniversary of his installation as Archbishop of Seattle.

17. More than five hundred gathered for our annual **Advent Penance Service**.

19. The Greening of the Cathedral took place in the evening. The St. James Young Adults once again came through big-time to prepare the Cathedral not only for Christmas, but for our centennial finale.

22-23. Centennial of the Dedication of St. James Cathedral (and the conclusion of our three-year Centennial observance). One-hundred years to the day when Bishop O'Dea in the presence of packed throngs blessed and dedicated St. James Cathedral, we marked the moment with especially beautiful liturgies and the blessing of a new historic marker in the Archbishop Murphy Courtyard (*see December 2007 issue*). In his homily for this weekend, Father Ryan said: "we have no less reason to feel those same emotions our forbears felt, no less reason to join their prayer of thanksgiving because we, too, have had a hand in building St. James Cathedral. When I say that I am referring not only to the renovations, the expansions and additions, the art works newly commissioned and wonderfully restored that we have been part of. I include those, of course, but I refer most of all to what I like to call the living



Above, Madre de las Americas; below, an image of Our Lady of Antipolo is carried in procession at Simbang Gabi.

Cathedral; for a church building, be it a great cathedral or a humble chapel, fulfills its highest calling not by *being* the church but by becoming a house for the church, a house for the People of God. And we are that people."

25. Christmas. Many thousands gathered to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord at St. James Cathedral—and to visit the beautiful Christmas Crib. Father Ryan noted in his homily: "we can approach the manger just as we are, with all our complicated histories, our sins, our dreary compromises, our false perceptions, our wrong starts. Because of Christmas, we know that here and here alone we are loved and accepted for who we are, not for who we wish we were. On the messy floor of the manger God embraces each of us, embraces our poor flesh and charges it with divinity!"

31. New Year's Eve Gala.

The annual concert—as always, full to capacity—featured the music of J. S. Bach—and, of course, a Midnight Surprise!

January

6. The Epiphany of the Lord. At the Noon Mass on this feast, the Three Kings came in the procession and then joined the Christmas Crib in the Cathedral Chapel.

19. Messiaen Concert. Dr. James Savage conducted a splendid performance of Messiaen's *Trois petites liturgies de la Présence Divine*.

20. Santo Niño Celebration. Each year we celebrate the "Holy Child" with a blessing of images of the Child Jesus at the Noon Mass, followed by a magnificent fiesta in the Cathedral Hall. This year there were also educational displays about Filipino culture and tradition.

February

2. Liturgy Day. The Cathedral's EMs, Readers, Ushers, and Emmaus Companions gathered for a day of renewal in their ministries and to celebrate Mass together on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

5. Olivier Latry, titular organist of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Paris, gave a dazzling recital in the Cathedral this evening. The P-I's music critic, Richard Campbell, noted, "Like all first-class French organists, Latry is an accomplished improviser. He ended his concert with an improvisation on two themes... not given to the organist until intermission. What resulted was

amazingly detailed and imaginative."

6. Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the season of Lent. Father Ryan said in his homily for today: "we need this season, all forty-plus days of it. We really do. We need Lent so we can learn to breathe again. We need Lent so we can breathe in the breath of God, God's Holy and life-giving Spirit. We need Lent so we can get in touch with the deepest longings of our hearts: our longing for God, and we can't do that in a day."

7. The Rite of Election was celebrated in the Cathedral not only for our own twenty catechumens—adults and young people—but also for hundreds of others from parishes across Western Washington, all preparing to be baptized at Easter.

20. Governor Gregoire created Washington's New Americans Policy Council today in a signing ceremony at our own Pastoral Outreach Center. "The United States and especially Washington have flourished through the contributions of people who come to our nation with their skills and ideas," Gregoire said. "We need to take a more systematic approach to helping them succeed and become citizens." The governor thanked St. James for hosting the ceremony and praised its community efforts, particularly its extraordinary St. James ESL Program.



Above, members of our own St. James ESL staff had an opportunity to meet Governor Gregoire on February 20; below, a group of Cathedral parishioners spent a week in Biloxi in March, helping rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

March

8. Holy Family Pilgrimage. Each year, the parishioners of Holy Family Parish in White Center walk seven miles to the Cathedral, praying all the way, concluding their journey with Mass in the Cathedral followed by a picnic lunch (and a bus ride home!). This year the group was more than 200 strong!

9. St. James Cathedral was honored with a visit from H.R.H. **Prince Philippe**, Crown Prince of the Belgians, who was in Seattle visiting Microsoft, Starbucks, and other local businesses.

11. The Health and Healing Committee sponsored the third annual **Parish Blood Drive** in the Pastoral Outreach Center. Forty-one people donated blood this year.

12. Archbishop Brunett presided at the **Chrism Mass**, which gathers hundreds of priests and laity from across Western Washington for the blessing of the oils.

16. Palm Sunday. The annual procession of palms led us from the O'Dea Gym to the Cathedral at the beginning of the 10:00am Mass. What a great way to start Holy Week!

20-23. The Sacred Triduum of the Lord was celebrated with great solemnity. *See the album on pages 10-13 of this journal.*

22. On Holy Saturday, fifteen adults and five young people were baptized by Archbishop Brunett at the Great Easter Vigil.

23. It was a rainy, grey Easter, but that didn't prevent more than 6,000 people from celebrating the **Resurrection of the Lord** at one of five beautiful Easter Masses at St. James. In his homily for today, Father Ryan said: "Who but God could ever have even dreamed of Easter? Certainly not ourselves because Easter flies in the face of all we know to be true; it flies in the face of all human experience and all common sense. For common sense and human experience know that there is really 'nothing new under the sun' as the Scripture has it. We are born, we live, we laugh, we weep, we dance, we mourn, we die. But Easter says there's more. Easter is God's cosmic announcement that there's more—that death no longer has the last word. Easter says that everything is new—now that Jesus is new."

29. More than 100 parishioners and friends gathered at the **Seattle Art Museum** for a fun event celebrating Ghiberti's magnificent Gates of Paradise—in Seattle for the first and only time! ♦

Top Ten Ways to Spend Your Rebate

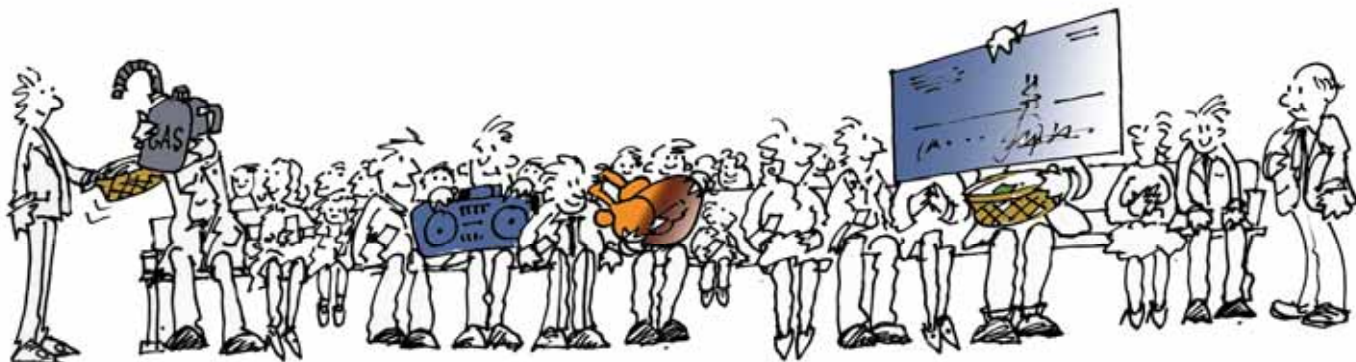
Many of us will be receiving an "Economic Stimulus" tax rebate check from the Federal Government in the next few weeks. Just in case you are having trouble coming up with a way to "stimulate the local economy," here are ten (admittedly biased) suggestions:

10. Buy a CD player for a homebound senior parishioner.
9. Help a homeless family move into an apartment with a gift to the Hunthausen Fund.
8. Provide a meat entrée for the Cathedral Kitchen.



7. Buy copies of the ESL Cookbook for all your friends.
6. Give a child a scholarship for the Children's Music Program.
5. Provide Metro bus tickets to be given out by the Solanus Casey Center.
4. Buy a few tankfuls of gas for the Parish vans.
3. Double your Annual Catholic Appeal pledge.
2. Help underwrite the cost of teaching materials for our Sunday School.
1. Drop a really big check into the collection basket next Sunday.

*By Larry Brouse
Illustrations by Steve Harrold*



ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

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