

Welcome to the Faith Community of
ST. THOMAS MORE

ROMAN CATHOLIC
STUDENT CENTER & UNIVERSITY PARISH
100 East Stinson Street, Norman OK 73072
(SOUTH OF OU STADIUM ON THE CORNER OF JENKINS AVENUE & STINSON STREET)

WE HOPE THAT YOU FEEL WELCOME AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE MANY ACTIVITIES HERE,
WHETHER YOU ARE A REGULAR PARISHIONER, A SEASONAL RESIDENT, OR JUST VISITING.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

VIGIL MASS	SATURDAY, 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY MASSES	8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M. (STUDENT-LED)
COMMUNION SERVICE	MONDAY, 7:30 A.M.
DAILY MASSES	TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 5:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, 9:00 P.M. (DURING OU FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS)
ROSARY	FOLLOWING DAILY MASS
NURSERY	SUNDAY, 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

OFFICE INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS (Monday-Friday)	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
LUNCH HOUR	12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
OFFICE CLOSED	HOLY DAYS
PHONE	(405) 321-0990
FAX	(405) 321-0964
WEB SITE	http://www.stm-ou.org
PRAYER LINE	(405) 447-7055
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHARITIES	(405) 329-5372
BULLETIN DEADLINE	TUESDAY, 12:00 Noon

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES. Classes are available for pre-school through high school youth. Registration has begun! Forms are in the Atrium.

MASS REQUESTS. To schedule a Mass intention, contact the Parish office.

FUNERALS. Please contact the Parish office to make arrangements with Father Ackerman.

NEWCOMERS. Welcome to St. Thomas More! Please complete a registration form located on the table opposite the Parish office in the Atrium.

MOVING. Please contact the Parish office with your new address.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Ray K. Ackerman • oklarka@yahoo.com • Ext. 204

R.C.I.A.: Director ☞ Deacon: Dr. John D. Pigott • jpigott@ou.edu • Ext. 250

Deacon: Tom Schott • tom.schott@gmail.com • Ext. 300

Religious Education Coordinator: Chelle Breedlove • cbreedlove@stm-ou.org • Ext. 202

Campus Minister: Erin Cleto • ecleto@stm-ou.org • Ext. 205

Music Director: Jan Roberts • dachs.mirabilis@cox.net • Ext. 203

Development Director: Debbie Kahls • dkahls@stm-ou.org • Ext. 206

Business Manager: Christy Meiser • crmeiser@yahoo.com • Ext. 212

Secretary ☞ Bulletin Editor: Gloria Olivero • glory@stm-ou.org • Ext. 200

Website Editor: Richard Love • pchelp@normanmusicscene.com

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 17, 2008

Pope Benedict XVI says that faith makes us light, enabling us to escape our own gravity which drags us down. The terrible trial of a chronically ill child could have wrecked the Canaanite woman's spirit, weighing her down with despondency and defeat. But faith lifts her from the heaviness of hopelessness and carries her to the "holy mountain" who is Christ. The promise proclaimed by Saint Paul—that God desires to have mercy on all—moves the woman beyond the burden of fatalism and doubt. Before the Answer who is Christ she will not take no for an answer. Even Christ's silence does not dissuade her. Instead, it serves to steel her belief, showing her a new tact by which to beg for what God is eager to give her. "My God, your silence replies better than the many fervors of my love for you" (Marthe Robin).

© Magnificat, Monthly Vol. 10, No. 6 / August 2008

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of St. Thomas More University Parish is to serve the spiritual, educational, and social needs of the Parish and to evangelize the larger community as expressed by our Catholic tradition.

VISION STATEMENT

The desire of our hearts is to be a vibrant sacramental Catholic community that prays, learns, cares, and shares in ways that compel us to witness to the power of the presence of God and to build God's kingdom.

SACRAMENTAL MINISTRIES

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (PENANCE). Saturdays, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., or by personal appointment. (*Canceled during OU Football Home Games*)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM. Parents requesting infant baptism must be *active* registered members of the Parish for at least six months and must contact the Parish office to schedule an appointment.

DEFINITION OF ACTIVE PARISHIONER. Must be registered and active in volunteering time, talent, and treasure towards helping to build up God's Kingdom (the Catholic Church suggests that half of the 10% tithe recommended in Sacred Scripture should go toward the workings of the Universal Church, which includes: Parish support, Catholic Charities, Archdiocesan Development Fund, St. Vincent De Paul, Peter's Pence and other special collections).

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK. Parishioners facing surgery or struggling with serious illness may request this sacrament by calling the Parish office. Contact Deacon Tom Schott at tom.schott@gmail.com or our Parish Nurse, Kathy Heiple, at (405) 321-7863, to arrange for visits and/or reception of Holy Communion.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY. Couples must be *active* members registered in the parish for at least six months, and must contact Reverend Ray Ackerman six months prior to the proposed wedding date. All engaged couples are urged to contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 to register for the *required* Marriage Preparation Course (Pre-Cana or Engagement Encounter).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is the formation process for educating and initiating adults who either would like to become Catholic, or desire to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches. RCIA sessions will begin **Tuesday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Overflow room. For further information, please contact Deacon John Pigott at jpigott@ou.edu.

VOCATIONS TO HOLY ORDERS AND CONSECRATED LIFE. Those who feel called to this life are invited to contact the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations at (405) 721-9351; or Reverend Ray K. Ackerman at the Parish office.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

SUNDAY † AUGUST 17 † 20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

THIRD SUNDAY & CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY: Collections

- 8:30 a.m. **MASS** † MARJORIE KRDB by *Jim Mahoney* (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 p.m. **MASS** Intentions of the PARISH FAMILY (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen's Ministry (Library)

MONDAY † AUGUST 18 † WEEKDAY (*Jane Frances de Chantal, religious*)

- 7:30 a.m. **COMMUNION SERVICE** (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY † AUGUST 19 † WEEKDAY (*John Eudes, priest*)

- 5:15 p.m. **MASS** † MUOI VO by *Thuy Pham* (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Safe Environment Seminar (Library)

WEDNESDAY † AUGUST 20 † WEEKDAY (*Bernard, abbot, doctor*)

- 7:30 a.m. **NO MASS**
- 8:20 a.m. **All Saints Catholic School MASS** (St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Norman)
- 7:00 p.m. First Degree Exemplification: Knight Officers (Knight's White House)

THURSDAY † AUGUST 21 † WEEKDAY (*Pius X, pope*)

- 5:15 p.m. **MASS** Intentions of CLARA ROH by *Parishioner* (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society (Library)

FRIDAY † AUGUST 22 † WEEKDAY (*Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*)

- 7:30 a.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY † AUGUST 23 † WEEKDAY (*Rose of Lima, virgin*)

FOURTH SUNDAY: Collection

- 8:30 a.m. Knights of Columbus Work Day (Knight's White House)
- 10:30 a.m. Catechists Welcome Brunch (Overflow)
- 3:00 p.m. **CONFESSIONS** (Confessional)
- 5:00 p.m. **VIGIL MASS** † EDWARD SANABRIA by *Maria Sanabria* (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY † AUGUST 24 † 21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

FOURTH SUNDAY: Collection

- 8:30 a.m. **MASS** Intentions of the PARISH FAMILY (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m. **MASS** (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 p.m. **STUDENT-LED MASS** † VERA CHARLES MANION by *Candida Manion* (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. Welcome Back Cookout for College Students (STM Grounds)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 9 & 10, 2008

WEEKLY AMOUNT	\$8,698.97	YTD AMOUNT	\$556,364.80
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$10,300.00	YTD BUDGET	\$598,100.00
DEFICIT	-\$1,601.03	DEFICIT	-\$41,735.20

REMEMBER THE POOR

Please drop a donation in the **POOR BOX** as you exit. All proceeds go to the *Saint Vincent de Paul Society* who assist the needy of Norman and Noble with utilities and rent. Thank you!

IN APPRECIATION...

Members of the Altar Server Ministry wish to extend a special thanks to the **Knights of Columbus** for the purchase of their cassocks and surplices.

HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

AUGUST 24, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Sue and Mick Hinton
- 11:00 a.m. Carolyn and Joe Sher

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

AUGUST 23 & 24, 2008

ALTAR SERVERS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. Arianna G., Matthew M., Hannah G.
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. Gabriella S., Emily Soreghan
- 11:00 a.m. Jacob K., Timo K., Tyler K.
- 5:00 p.m. Susan M., Sherritta H., Hannah R.

LECTORS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. Sharon Peelar, Tom Burns
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. John Murray, Tom Koszoru
- 11:00 a.m. Kristen & Casey Partridge
- 5:00 p.m. Harold Castano, Bobby Meiners

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. Paula Graham, Valli Marti, Cheri Remington, Stephen & Mary Bonner
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. Joe Lies, Stacy Schrank, Gerry Whitman, Cathy & John Fagan
- 11:00 a.m. Margaret Vennoch, Susan Schott, Caridad Marchand, Dan Lawrence, Deanna Preble, Peter Keupen, Becky O'Dea, Jodie & Doris Edge
- 5:00 p.m. Bea Henderson, Matthew Rom, Rick Lane, Ben Ballard, Michael DuPont, Bill Hersey, Jim & Linda Fields, Jennifer Grover

USHERS

- SATURDAY MASS
- 5:00 p.m. Corey & Jackie Potvin
- SUNDAY MASSES
- 8:30 a.m. K. Denton, Jr., Russell Koch, Becky Fleming, Heidi Koszoru
- 11:00 a.m. Junsik Sim, Jim Weller, Chris Dalton
- 5:00 p.m. Bill Huntington, Noel Brown

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary one Sunday a year, now is your opportunity! You may purchase the flowers (**Design 2000 Flowers & Gifts, 405.321.6736**) and have them delivered to the Sanctuary on Saturday afternoon before the Sunday you choose. If you would like them to be in memory or honor of someone, please let Gloria Olivero know by the Tuesday before that Sunday (405.321.0990 Ext. 200). Your donation would thereupon be acknowledged in the bulletin.

MINISTRY	COORDINATOR	NUMBER
ALTAR SERVER	Joe Mecham	573-4979
LECTOR	Ruth Loeffler	329-5358
USHER <i>(Sat. 5 p.m. Mass in dire need of ushers)</i>	Steve Patrick	360-7827
CHOIR / MUSICIAN	Jon Roberts	850-5252
ALTAR SOCIETY <i>(i.e. linen care, metal polishing)</i>	Jo Ann Oberst	329-7029
HOSPITALITY -CHURCH EVENTS <i>(i.e. missions, retreats, anniversaries)</i>	Brigid Brink	321-6824
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	Jim Mattek	872-5054
CATECHIST / NURSERY AIDE	Chelle Breedlove	321-0990 Ext. 202
BEREAVEMENT HOSPITALITY <i>(i.e. funeral lunch /dinner)</i>	Ellen Huntington	321-5541
FEED THE HUNGRY <i>(i.e. Food & Shelter for Friends)</i>	Gerry Whitman	360-1174
LIBRARIAN	Christy Meiser	321-0990 Ext. 212
VISITATION OF THE SICK: <i>(i.e. homebound, hospital, nursing home)</i>	Kathy Heiple	321-7863

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

HOLY FAMILY MATERNITY HOME (HFHM) HOSTS OPEN HOUSE AND TRAVELING LADY OF FATIMA STATUE. Catholic Charities' HFHM will be host to the traveling International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima on **Tuesday, August 19 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** The public is invited to see the world-famous statue, and tour the facility during Open House. A short prayer service will be held by Father Stieferman from St. Paul the Apostle Church. The celebration also coincides with the ninth anniversary of the home's dedication. Refreshments will be served. The HFHM is located at 6821 Eddie Drive in Midwest City.

ADVOCACY ALERTS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES. Richard Klinge, Associate Director of Advocacy, Outreach and Legal Services for Catholic Charities, periodically distributes Action Alert emails covering legislative and related issues which are impacted by Catholic Social Teaching. The purpose of the information sharing is to raise awareness and increase involvement in social issues. If you are interested in being on the Action Alert email list, contact Richard at rklinge@catholiccharitiesok.org or call 405.523.3000.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DISASTER RELIEF: TRAINING PLANNED. Did you know that Catholic Charities serves as a disaster relief agency for natural and man-made disasters that affect our Archdiocese? Over the last several years, Catholic Charities has served communities who have had tornadoes, floods, ice storms, and resettled hurricane victims. Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers to assist parishes and communities affected by disaster.

For those interested in volunteering, the first **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AND DISASTER TRAINING** program will be held on **Thursday, August 21, at 7 PM** at Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen Blvd. Volunteers will be required to attend training and participate in the Safe Environment Training. Anyone interested in volunteering and attending the training should contact Catholic Charities' Parish Outreach Office at 405.523.3009.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2008, 9:30 A.M.—3:30 P.M., *Joanne Yankaukis, OSB. BUILDING BRIDGES TO CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING WITH THOMAS MERTON, BOOK 4 -DISCOVERING THE HIDDEN GROUND OF LOVE. "Be attentive, by learning to listen, we can find ourselves engulfed in such happiness that it cannot be explained; the happiness of being at one with everything in that hidden ground of love for which there can be no explanation."* -Thomas Merton. **Place:** *Monastery Library of Red Plains Monastery, SW of Piedmont.* **CALL** 405.373.0804 to register. **FEE:** Send in your \$40 to reserve a place. Bring a sack lunch.

Q. Why is St. Pope Pius X, whose feast we celebrate on August 21, referred to as the "Pope of the Eucharist"?

A. Pope Pius X, pope from 1903-1914, had a great love and devotion to the Eucharist and desired to promote it. Over the years many influences had entered the Catholic world, particularly the attitude that one was not worthy to receive communion. This led many Catholics to refrain from receiving, even on Sundays. Pius X saw this as a distortion of the way Catholics should approach the Eucharist and worked towards changing that attitude.

In 1903, Pius X issued several decrees strongly encouraging all faithful to receive frequently, even daily. In 1910, he lowered the age for receiving first communion from the teenage years to the age of reason, understood to be seven years of age. Now accepted as a common practice, early reception of the Eucharist was a rather radical position to promote during his day.

Pius X also worked diligently to promote and encourage daily Bible reading among Catholics. He established the Pontifical Biblical Commission, still in existence, to promote Bible study and to oversee all matters biblical. Restoring Gregorian chant, codifying church law, and encouraging a pastoral sensitivity to people were other trademarks of his pontificate.

Pius X shunned Vatican pomp and circumstance, wishing to serve the Lord in simplicity. He once observed that "I was born poor, I have lived poor, and I wish to die poor."

Reflect on the role that Eucharist plays in your life.

©2008 Liturgical Publications Inc, New Berlin, WI 53151

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGE—Retroville (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriage. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the Fall program beginning with a weekend on **September 5-7, 2008**, call 918.695.7010 or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." Jesus asks us to love Him and one another. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is **October 24-26**. Early registration is recommended to ensure your spot for the weekend. For further information, visit www.meoklahoma.org or call 405.760.0390.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & SCHOOL NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION. Registration packets are in the Atrium. **Registration deadline is 30 August.** Registration fees are \$45 for 1, \$65 for 2, \$95 for 3, and \$100 for 4 or more children enrolled in the program. Drop your registration forms, with payment, in the Parish office when you attend Mass, or during office hours – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday).

PLEASE GIVE PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION TO BECOMING A CATECHIST. A warm special thank you to those catechists that have recently volunteered or remained on the team to facilitate religious education to our youth! Thank you for sharing our faith! There are still a few very needed positions available (see below):

3 CATECHISTS

14 ADULT VOLUNTEERS for **NURSERY** (at least 16 adults will allow fair rotation between the 8:30 and 11:00 Mass. This will also allow the volunteers to be scheduled once a month! We are hoping for parents that use the nursery on a regular basis to volunteer, but welcome college students and others that have lots of patience and a heart of gold!)

PLEASE NOTE: Any volunteer catechist or nursery aide *must* attend a *Safe Environment Seminar* and fill out the required application. R.E. Coordinator will personally assist with the application process to ensure all the requirements for the archdiocese are met and completed in a timely fashion.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR. The Archdiocese of OKC requires anyone in the Parish who has regular contact with youth (*under the age of 18*) to undergo the Safe Environment program before being allowed to help with our young people. **SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING SEMINARS** are held at Saint Thomas More in the *Parish library* on the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** The next one will be held **Tuesday, August 19.** (*If you are unable to attend the Saint Thomas More Safe Environment Seminar, you may attend the seminar at St. Mark's in Norman on the 1st Sunday of each month at 10:15 a.m.*) The seminar lasts approximately 45 minutes. To sign up for this workshop, contact Chelle Breedlove at 405.321.0990 Ext. 202.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS: Please pick-up your child's First Holy Communion **photo disc** located on the south wall of the Parish atrium.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

- 20 Aug 08:** **First Day of School** Norman Public Schools
23 Aug 08: **Catechists Brunch** (Meet and Greet), **10:30 a.m.** in Overflow room (RSVP required. Call/email Chelle to sign-up.)
29 Aug 08: **Catechist Work Day** (Clean & Prep Classrooms / Yard Work)
1 Sep 08: **No School: Labor Day**
5 Sep 08: **Catechist Work Day / Calendar Review, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**
7 Sep 08: **First Day of Religious Education Classes** (ALL Grades K-12), **9:45-10:45 a.m.**
21 Sep 08: **Blessing of Catechists, 8:30 a.m.**
27 Sep 08: **St Vincent De Paul's "Walk for the Poor"**
Process from All Saints Catholic School, **8:30 a.m.**
Community Service Choice for Confirmation candidates 1st and 2nd year students
CATECHETICAL CONGRESS, Pastoral Center, OKC.
28 Sep 08: **Crop Walk** (Food and Shelter for Friends), **2:00 p.m.**
Community Service Choice for Confirmation candidates 1st and 2nd year students
NOTE FOR ANTICIPATING 9TH GRADERS (1ST YEAR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES) AND 10-11TH GRADERS (2ND year Confirmation Candidates): This R.E. year 2008-2009, two Community Services are to be completed by all Confirmation students. One service in the fall and one in the Spring. Students will have a choice of what to do or what to attend. The Walk for the Poor and Crop Walk are great ideas for the fall.

CHELLE BREEDLOVE
Religious Education Coordinator
cbreedlove@stm-ou.org • Ext. 202

CATECHIST'S CORNER

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is actively involved in overseeing that those who work with youth are formally trained, continue to give updated training, and are provided with means of deepening their own faith. The revised Code of Canon Law states: *"Lay persons who devote themselves to special service in the church are obligated to acquire appropriate formation that is required to fulfill their function properly and to carry it conscientiously, zealously and diligently"* (CN 776).

Please contact Chelle Breedlove to review the options that are available for catechetical certification. One of the options are a series of five Youth Faith Formation workshops, held on Saturdays throughout the year from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Consider attending the **2008 CATECHETICAL CONGRESS** on **Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008** at the **Catholic Pastoral Center.** Sign-up with Chelle no later than **Sept. 14.** We can try to carpool and all go together!

ST. JOSEPH'S EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Thursday, September 4, At 10:00 a.m.
ECDC Playground
425 E. Tonhawa, Norman, OK

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 10 YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH
TO SERVE AND NURTURE
NORMAN'S FAMILIES AND CHILDREN!

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT MAUREEN DOLAN AT 405.447.8608

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Wednesday, August 20, is our **first All-School Mass** of the 2008-09 school year. It is held at St. Mark's at 8:20 a.m. All parishioners are invited to celebrate Mass with us!

All Saints is seeking substitute teachers for the 2008-09 school year. Please contact Cathy Snodgrass in the school office for more information.

Our new gym is within reach! We've topped ***\$760,000*** for our capital campaign. Help us by making your pledge today. Make your capital campaign pledge by credit or debit card by logging on to our school website at www.allsaintsnorman.org and click on the "donate" tab in the upper right corner. Payments can be made over 1, 12 or 24 months. It's easy!

KID'S CORNER

SHARING THE GOSPEL. Jesus met a woman who had amazing faith. She was brave. She was loud. She did not care what anybody else thought. Jesus was the Savior, and she knew he could heal her daughter. Jesus can help you with any problem you have, too. Be brave. Keep asking Jesus for help. God is strong. He can do anything.

PRAYER. Jesus, help me to be brave. I know you can do anything.

SOMETHING TO DRAW. Draw a picture of the brave woman asking Jesus for help.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK. If you know someone who is sick, be brave and pray about it. Jesus can do anything.

PARISH NEWS, NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ALL OU FACULTY AND STAFF!

Each year, St. Thomas More faculty, staff, and their families host a **WELCOME BACK COOKOUT** for the new and returning students to the University of Oklahoma. This year, it will be held **after the 5 PM Mass on Sunday, August 24**. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to grill, set-up, and/or clean-up. *We would like to have a good count of volunteers by Wednesday, August 20. Please sign-up in the Parish atrium.* Thank you so much in advance for helping us welcome the students back for the 2008-2009 academic year!

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Our next **Exemplification** is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 20**. Don't delay; there is still time to invite a qualified man to join the First Degree and participate in this ceremony. Recruit a new member – Both of you will glad you did. **KNIGHTHOOD** and its **SERVICE** is an **HONOR**.

Work Day Scheduled – The second of two workdays to improve the appearance of the Knights' House and assist in the upgrading of RE and Campus Ministry facilities is scheduled for **8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 23**. The results of the hard work by those who attended last Saturday's workday are greatly appreciated. *Please lend a hand one more time.*

Our next **CASINO EVENT** will be for Campus Ministry at the Student Union on **Wednesday, August 27 from 7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.** *Volunteers are needed to man the tables.* Call Grand Knight Bill Huntington at 360-7473 for details.

FOOD FOR FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE), is St. Thomas More's turn to prepare and serve the needy in Norman. Cooking will start at **9:00 a.m.** in the **Food for Friends Kitchen** (104 W. Comanche). We will serve from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. **We do need your help!** If you can bring a dessert or help with the preparing and serving, please sign up in the Atrium in the coming week. Thank you!

WALK FOR THE POOR

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL is proud to announce the first **"WALK FOR THE POOR."** This event will take place at **All Saint's Catholic School on Saturday, September 27 at 8:30 a.m.** Registration forms will be provided on the table in the Parish atrium after Mass. If you have any questions please call our "Walk for the Poor" Parish representative, Joe Walters, at 405.812.7634.

ASSOCIATE ADORERS OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST will meet **Monday, September 29, at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Overflow room. For further information, contact Sister Ursula Schones, facilitator, at schonesu@adorers.org.

WOMEN OF ST. THOMAS MORE...

Mark your calendars today for the **Oklahoma Catholic Women's Conference** to be held on **Saturday, January 24, 2009** at the Clarion Conference Center at Reno and Meridian in Oklahoma City. Discounted, on-line registration will begin on **September 1**. Brochures will be forthcoming.

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Inspirational speaker **W. Mitchell** is world famous for his talks on persistence. He should know: a motorcycle accident left him burned over sixty-five percent of his body and cost him his fingers; and a plane crash paralyzed him from the waist down. His message is that, of the 10,000 things he used to be able to do, now he can do 9,000. Why focus on the other 1,000? His faith in the persistence of the human spirit is powerful.

In today's Gospel reading from Matthew, Jesus is confronted by a woman asking for her daughter to be cleansed of demons. Notice that she does not ask Jesus if he is Lord before making her request, she already knows. Jesus does not answer her right away; when she again pleads for his mercy and refers to him as Lord, he grants her wish because of her persistence and her faith.

Enabling this woman's persistence was her hope. **HOPE FOR GOODNESS IS THE PROMISE OF GOD GIVEN THROUGH JESUS; IT IS THE ANCHOR OF OUR SOUL, AND IT ALLOWS US TO BE HAPPY EVEN IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY. HOPE IS EXPRESSED AND NOURISHED IN PRAYER (CCC 1820).** Perhaps you've been praying for something but feel your prayers haven't been answered? Continue to pray. Be persistent in your faith; never lose hope.

© 2008 Liturgical Publications Inc

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17, 2008

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7 / Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 / Mt 15:21-28
Monday: Ez 24:15-24 / Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10 / Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11 / Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Ez 36:23-28 / Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ez 37:1-14 / Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab / Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday: Is 22:19-23 / Rom 11:33-36 / Mt 16:13-20

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

It is our responsibility in the Lord to remember the sick who are especially close to the Redeemer in their suffering. Listed below are people who have requested our prayerful intercession. *Call our Prayer Line to add or delete someone from the prayer list at 405.447.7055.* If there is an **EMERGENCY**, and you need to reach a priest, please dial 405.321.0990 Ext. 208.

VISIT THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL AND PRAY FOR... The preservation of the dignity and sanctity of all life; victims and survivors of violence; troubled marriages; vocations (*Mariana Schwartz*); peace; justice; our service men, women and their families (*Colleen Dennison, Matthew Ghigliotti, Luke T. Landis, Michael Scanlon and Clint Wilson*); the hungry; the homeless; the abused; the unemployed; and our youth; **THE SICK...** Marge Earley, Harold Heiple, Joan Ivester, Susan Lepak, Sharon Poe, Ignacio & Maria Ruiz, Dar Vickers, Sallie Wallace, and Luisa Whitman; **THOSE IN MOURNING...** The Farnan, Johnson, Kuker, and Okvist families; **THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF...** Mary Lee Farnan, George M. Kuker, and the Okvist twins.

VIGIL CANDLES in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel burn for your special intentions. *Donations are appreciated.* **MASS STIPENDS** are payable to Reverend Ray K. Ackerman in the amount of \$10.00, *if you can afford it.*

LISTEN TO CATHOLIC RADIO

"Catholic Answers Live," Monday through Friday 5 - 7 p.m.
"Good News Sunday," Thursday & Friday at 3:30 p.m.

KTLR 890 AM - Oklahoma City or www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com

GREAT IS FAITH

"The obedience of faith," *Dei Verbum* teaches, "must be given to God as he reveals himself." God revealed himself in the Old Covenant, asking of the people he had chosen a fundamental response of faith. In the fullness of time, this faith is called to be renewed and increased, to respond to the revelation of the incarnate Son of God. Jesus expressly asks for it when he speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper: "Believe in God, believe also in me" (Jn 14:1). In what does faith consist? *The Constitution Dei Verbum* explains that by faith, "man freely commits his entire self to God, making 'the full submission of his intellect and will to God who reveals.'" Thus faith is not only the intellect's adherence to the truth revealed, but also a submission of the will and a gift of self to God revealing himself. It is a stance that involves one's entire existence. The Council also recalls that this faith requires "the grace of God to move [man] and assist him; he must have the interior help of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and 'makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth'" (ibid.) ... Faith spurs us to true and deep consistency, which must be expressed in all aspects of a life modeled on that of Christ. As a fruit of grace, faith exercises an influence on events. The faith of the Canaanite woman was also bold and insistent. Jesus countered this woman, who had come to seek the cure of her daughter, with the Father's plan which restricted his mission to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The Canaanite replied with the full force of her faith and obtained the miracle: "O woman! Great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire" (Mt 15:28). The role of faith is to co-operate with this omnipotence... For Jesus, faith has a decisive importance for the purposes of salvation.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope John Paul II (+ 2005) reigned from 1978 until 2005.

© Magnificat 2008

PLEASE HELP!

An older parishioner will be in need of a ride from her apartment to Church and return during the period September 14 through 19 October. She lives at Westwood Park apartments on west Robinson and prefers the 8:30 a.m. Mass. If you can and would be willing to help, please contact Al Patrick at 360.4147 for more information.

PARISH VISITORS OF MARY IMMACULATE

Three sisters from the community of Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, at the invitation of Archbishop Beltran, will be in the Archdiocese this month. The charism of their order is that of visitation of "families and individuals where they live in order to win souls for Christ." They will be conducting door-to-door visitations in midwest Oklahoma City and will be in residence at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

As part of their evangelization efforts, they will offer a **TRAINING SESSION, Saturday, August 30, at the Pastoral Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** **COST** is \$10/person, which includes lunch and materials. Interested parties are requested to contact Judy Reilly at 722-2110 X125 by *Friday, August 22*. These skills would be especially useful for those involved with St. Vincent de Paul and similar ministries.

QUESTION OF THE DAY

DREAMS FROM THE DEVIL?

Q. Can the devil torment you in your dreams? -D.T., via email

A. I don't know that the Church has ever given a definitive answer to that question. We do know from precedents in Scripture that angels can appear to people in their dreams, sent by God. The most famous examples of that occurrence, of course, are St. Joseph's dreams, which instructed him how to care for Mary and Jesus (see Mt 1:21-24; 2:13). Since demons are fallen angels, perhaps they have retained the power, even after their fall from grace, to influence our dreams in some way.

The great medieval theologian St. Thomas Aquinas took this position. In his great work the *Summa Theologiae*, he wrote that "dreams may be caused by spiritual agents, such as God, directly, or indirectly through his angels, and the devil" (II-I:95:6). He also warned that demons may communicate in dreams to those who have sought dealings with them.

A thirteenth-century collection of stories about St. Dominic, which claims to be based on information from the saints' companions, tells how Dominic once encountered the devil prowling around the convent. When the saint asked him what kind of mischief he accomplished in the dormitory, the demon replied: "I keep the brethren from enjoying their rest, and then tempt them not to rise for matins, and when this does not work, I send them foul dreams and illusions."

The story may be only a legend, but it at least reflects, presumably, a popular belief that the devil could trouble people through dreams. We might note as well that the sixth-century Pope St. Gregory the Great, in his *Dialogues* (II, 8), says of St. Benedict: "The old enemy of mankind [that is, the devil], not taking this in good spirit, presented himself to the eyes of that holy father, not privately or in a dream, but in open sight." The implication here seems to be that the devil was known to appear in dreams.

Even so, I don't think you should automatically assume that a bad dream, even a terrible nightmare, has a supernatural cause. Psychologists who study dreams have confirmed what common sense suggests: Most dreams appear to have very natural origins in our personal experience; they are often attempts by the subconscious mind to work through issues of one sort or another.

If you feel tormented by dreams, I would suggest that you seek help from your priest, spiritual director, or other trusted counselor.

© The Catholic Answer, August 11, 2008

**"COME TO THE WATER, THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE."
ST. THOMAS MORE JOURNEY OF FAITH FALL-SPRING 2008-09**

As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. (Psalms 42:2). And Jesus said: "Let anyone who thirsts, come to me and drink..." (John 7:37).

If you are interested in learning more about what being a Catholic is all about, or if you are a baptized adult Catholic who has not received the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation, or if you simply desire to investigate the existential meaning of your life, then the St. Thomas More RCIA program is for you!

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a **JOURNEY OF FAITH** which runs from August 26, 2008 to April 12, 2009 (Easter Vigil) with meetings each Tuesday evening from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** By attending RCIA, you are not committing yourself to baptism or to being received into the Catholic Church, but simply to exploring further your journey with Christ.

If you would like to find out more, please contact me, or better yet, just show up! **The first meeting is Tuesday evening, August 26, in the Parish Overflow room.**

-Yours in Christ, Deacon John Pigott