

Sacred Heart Beat Newsletter

January 2007

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Angels are truly amidst the community and being seen on a regular basis.

Gabriel's Helping Hands is the program young women and their children are seeing first-hand the powers of volunteer angels.

"We are here to serve mothers and caretakers and their pre-born up to 3-year-old children," explained Sr. Evelyn. "This is a prevent-abortion program." We provide them with an angel to walk with them.

The program's Coordinating Team is comprised of SVDP members Sr. Evelyn McCarte, D.C., Linda Proulx and Toni Fiacco-Price. Along with these women, there is also a core of approximately 15 volunteer angels who are available to help the young women and children.



Sandy and Earl Cunningham, Kathy Hart and Sr. Evelyn McCarte, DC organize Christmas gifts.

This past

Christmas the Angel group provided movie passes and a gift card to Pizza Hut to the women plus diapers and wipes for their babies.

An Epiphany party gave a chance for Angels and mothers to gather, socialize and celebrate the feast. In addition, the mothers could pick outfits for their children. Especially worthwhile for all was the testimony given by a mother and an Angel about the personal benefits each found in their association.

On January 27 about eleven Angels will have attended a further training session in Gouverneur sponsored by Fr. Jerry Bleaux.

ON THE BEAT

JESSIE CAREY ROOM —NEW AMBIENCE FOR MEETINGS AT CONVENT

When Fr. Don was reviewing parish facilities last year and considering further possibilities for meeting space, he looked at the meeting room at the convent.

Added on to the original house in the 1950's, because of the large number of sisters living there then, it was the Sisters' chapel. Second and third floors above were bedrooms.

Then followed a variety of uses: a gathering place for Cursillo members, teen vocation overnights, high school religion education classes, SVDP meetings, retreats—and the Sisters' parties .

Could something be done to make it more appealing, asked Father? Yes! The pastor got into action and so did many others.

Ed and his crew painted the walls, put in a bathroom and entryway, and new ceiling lights.

Melissa Szarka, cook for the priests, with Srs. Rita Mary and Juliana spent time and energy selecting drapes. The old rug was removed and a new one installed by Jim Page. Then the furniture, those 'antiquities', would have to go. Fortunately, through other exchanges, the job was done.



Looking toward double doors into convent

Why the name? Funding for the refurbishing of the room was made possible through funds from the estate of Jessie M. Carey. Jessie died 1 July 1998. She had included the parish in her will. The statue of Our Lady in Calvary Cemetery was provided for by her, also.

View toward back outside entrance



Table for meetings adds to usefulness.

ENGAGED COUPLES DRAW FROM

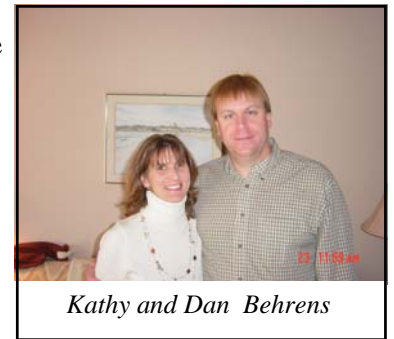
EXPERIENCES OF MARRIAGE PREP TEAMS

If you were planning to drive from Massena to Seattle, how would you prepare for your 2,875 mile trip? Buy a new highway atlas, perhaps? Call your auto club? Access an Internet mapping web-site?

Well, what if you could sit down with some friendly folks who have made that drive on how to avoid traffic snarls and even suggest the techniques to make your sometimes-challenging trek a very enjoyable experience?

Although the analogy isn't identical, Sacred Heart's Marriage Preparation Program is taking a similar approach for couples who are planning the lifelong journey of marriage.

Fr. Kevin McEwan and Deacon Jim Hotte sat down recently to discuss the "Couple To Couple" marriage preparation program. Sacred Heart has adopted this form of the required Pre-Cana preparation to replace the all day conferences which brought dozens of couples together for a one-day "cram session" before their marriages.



Kathy and Dan Behrens

In the Couple To Couple program, the man and woman preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony have a series of meetings with a married couple who will consult with and advise them on ways to make their marriage happy, healthy and successful over the long term.



Denise and Rene Neves

"We think that this allows a little more personal interaction than the conferences. With the long, all-day event, sometimes peo-

ple get glassy-eyed and kind of tune some things out,” Fr. Kevin said. “The advantage of Couple To Couple is that it allows people to meet a couple who live in the reality of marriage everyday.”

As Couple To Couple Program overseers, Deacon Hotte and his wife, Lori, are one of the four couples who act as “sponsors” for those preparing for marriage. The other team members are Kathy & Dan Behrens, Denise & Rene Neves and Cathy & Robert Todd.



Deacon Jim and Lori Hotte

Deacon Jim says the sponsor couples bring a variety of marriage experiences as examples for the people preparing for matrimony. “They can talk about some of the challenges they

faced in their marriages. They are a wonderful image, and resource, for people who are getting ready to be married,” continued Deacon Jim. “It also gives the couples a contact couple after marriage if the need arises. We let them know that we are here for them.”

Couples will meet over the course of six sessions to discuss different aspects of marriage. Session titles include: Family of Origins, Marriage Expectations, Communication, Sex and Sexuality, Making Moral Decisions, and Sacrament of Matrimony. They also receive printed materials and participate in example exercises relating to marriage.

“We do all this research when we’re going to buy a car or a new computer. Well, what about marriage? Do we spend the same kind of time and research on marriage?” asks Fr Kevin. “This program allows them to sit with a couple and discuss all of those things you don’t think about as individuals.”

PRAYER FOR PEACE—FOCUS FOR MONTHLY GATHERINGS

Beginning this past Advent a number of parishioners have gathered for an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament specifically to pray for world peace. Sr. Mary Stephen Durant, OSM, said the idea came from the ladies themselves.

From 1:30 to 2:30 PM on the third Tuesday of each month they gather in the Jessie Carey Room at the convent.

Prayer time is taken up with the Dolor Rosary, prayers with a peace theme, a quarter hour of silent prayer and closes with a hymn.

Anyone is welcome to come as one’s schedule permits. Go to the last entrance at the back of the convent.



Sr. Mary Stephen, Judy Post, Elsie Scruggs, Rita Treers and Lola Norton relax after their prayer session.

TRINITY FUNDRAISER AN AMAZING SUCCESS

The largest and most successful edition of Trinity Catholic School’s largest annual fundraiser ended New Year’s Eve, with the lucky winner driving away with a 2007 GMC Sierra. Under guiding hands of co-chairs Greg and Patricia Schaffer, the Trinity Truck Raffle grossed an amazing \$78,600!

Trinity Catholic Principal, Joan Rufa, says selling

7,860 tickets for the end-of-year raffle was more than anyone thought possible. “With Greg and Pat chairing last year, we were totally in awe of the results,” Joan said. “We didn’t think we could beat last year, but this time around, our net profit was \$48,000.”

This means better than 2/3 of the \$67,000 budget



Who drives the truck, Carol? “I do,” she promptly replies. “It was my ticket.”

for fund-raising this school year was raised during the October-December truck raffle.

In addition to the organizational work of Greg and Pat, their cadre of volunteer ticket sellers, and the over 35 businesses that sold tickets to the public, Joan credited Fay Motors for working hard to give the school the best possible deal on the grand prize. “We try to rotate the truck purchased for the raffle between the local new vehicle dealers. Their support in obtaining factory or dealer discounts is critical to the successful raffle,” said Joan.

Carol Burns of Waddington, who purchased three tickets as Christmas stocking stuffers for family, then bought one for herself, was the lucky winner of the truck, valued at some \$28,000. Five other tickets for \$100 cash prizes were also drawn.

While the majority of the fundraising budget has been raised at the mid-point of the school year, there is still some work to do, and plenty of opportunity for YOU to help support Catholic education

in Massena. Upcoming fundraising events include the annual pancake breakfast on February 11, 2007, or the spaghetti supper on February 15, 2007, which are both part of Catholic Schools Week observance. Also, a spring chocolate bar sale and weekly bingo at St. Joseph’s social hall. Also in the works is a second phone-a-thon campaign aimed at Holy Family High School alumni, which raised about \$9,000 for Trinity last year.

FAITH ISSUES

Sometimes it takes a child to show us God in His world and lead us to a simpler meeting with God.

The following is an unedited piece by a fourth grade CCD pupil. The item was in the S. H. Parish bulletin sometime during 1881-82.

“God is...
 a silent prayer,
 a frog croaking in the millpond,
 a lily pad in a still pond,
 someone looking for care,
 Well, anyhow, whatever God is
 He always represents love.”

Claire Banks

(If anyone knows of Claire Banks, or anything about this former Massena and S.H. lady, please let us know.)

CONTRIBUTERS

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