

THE SACRED HEART BEAT

OF SACRED HEART CHURCH, MASSENA, NY

March 2009

REFLECTIONS

Recently, on December 12, the noted theologian Cardinal Avery Dulles died. He was 90 years old. Still he continued to write and engage in dialogues with church figures of all persuasions. He was the son of U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and the grandson of a Presbyterian minister from Auburn, NY. He entered the Catholic Church when a student at Harvard University.

The truth is he had had infantile paralysis as a youth and this left him with some handicaps. As years went on, his speech was affected as well as his eyesight. In the last few years of life he could not see nor speak.

His last lecture was delivered shortly before his death. Fr. Dulles sat on the stage listening to his own talk as it was being read by a fellow Jesuit theologian.

The following was written to a friend some time shortly before he died. It has a message for all of us as we move on in the years.

“Suffering and diminishment are not the greatest of evils, but are normal ingredients in life, especially in old age. They are to be accepted as elements of a full human existence. Well into my ninetieth year I have been able to work productively. As I become increasingly paralyzed and unable to speak, I can identify with the many paralytics and mute persons in the Gospels, grateful for the loving and skillful care I receive and for the hope of everlasting life in Christ. If the Lord now calls me to a period of weakness, I know well that his power can be made perfect in infirmity. “Blessed be the name of the Lord!”

ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST - OUR FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

From 1st through 9th grades Sacred Heart works to introduce our children to the Gospel message and more. It aims to give them an experience of Jesus and of real Christian living.

MEETING JESUS IS THE GOAL

During the school year 2008-2009 the goal for all grades attending Sacred Heart Faith Formation Programs has been twofold: (1) encountering the Person of Jesus and (2) experiencing the meaning and practice of Prayer.

Age-appropriate information and experience are offered by each catechist in his/her individual classroom.

The teaching model used offers the combined use of grade-level textbooks, lectionary-based materials, Catholic DVDs, and videos. Students are exposed to the Christian faith as found in Sacred Scripture, prayer, and our Catholic Tradition.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL IS A FOCUS

Each Sunday morning the Faith Formation Program for Elementary grades begins with a Prayer Assembly attended by all students in grades 1 through 6. The Sunday Gospel is shared with all and a question/answer period takes place. Then, each grade proceeds to its individual classroom for age-appropriate learning activities which reinforce the message shared during the Prayer Assembly.

This year, during the months of January and

February a one-and-a-half hour animated “Morning of Retreat” was held each month for grades 1 through 3 and then 4 through 6.



Young catechism students get a handle on the Bible.

GRADES 7 & 8 LEAD TO CONFIRMATION

Classes for Junior High students are held 6 weeks in the Fall and another 6 weeks in the Spring. Along with these classroom sessions all students are expected to attend two lectures by Guest Speakers – one during the month of January and another during February. Finally they attend a 6-hour “Day of Retreat”. Students expecting to receive Confirmation in 9th grade must now attend Jr. High classes as a prerequisite.



Junior high retreat students are challenged to work together solving their puzzle.

Finally, 9th grade students who expect to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation attend classroom studies 6 weeks in the Fall and 6 in the Spring of the year. They, too, are expected to attend lectures by Guest Speakers in January and February and take part in a

diocesan mandated 6-hour “Day of Retreat” in preparation for their Confirmation.



Paul McCarthy, veteran confirmation teacher, keeps 9th graders in touch with Church’s social issues.

FAITH FORMATION IS FOR ADULT LIFE, TOO

Faith Formation as a life-long process is the catechetical model we offer. It strives to help our students understand how our Catholic Christian belief system impacts our life with one another at home, at church, in the community, and in the world. Our Faith Formation program attempts to do this by guiding our students to appreciate and understand how to encounter Christ in life’s situations and draw upon the life-long graces of prayer to strengthen their faith.

MACPHERSON KEEPS TRINITY KIDS ON THEIR TOES

While Trinity Catholic has always been known for fostering the whole child, spiritually and academically, Trinity also actively promotes the healthy and well child. Physical education teacher Mrs. Donna MacPherson has worked tirelessly to promote life-long healthy and physically active lifestyles for each of Trinity’s students.

Field Trips With a Purpose

She has incorporated physical education field trips for students in grades 4-6 which have allowed the opportunity to experience some winter exercise like skating, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. In this way students are exposed to opportunities within their community and surrounding area to engage in physical activity. Students skate together at the

St. Lawrence Centre in January, and cross-country ski and snowshoe at the Robert Moses state Park Nature Center in February. They can begin to develop an awareness and understanding of community resources available to them in order to be able to manage their own personal fitness.



Fifth graders Carlee Marsh, Caitlin McMahon and Rachel Davis enjoyed skating.



Sixth graders Amanda Morris, Bailey McGregor, Jocelyn Peets, Abigail Willer went snowshoeing.

Physical Fitness Program Is Relational, Too

Mrs. MacPherson guides the students to focus more on cooperation and sportsmanship than competition. Students are expected to demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior while participating in physical activity, and while being a spectator. Personal living skills are developed throughout the curriculum and are a very important part of each class. Skills such as having respect for others, cooperation, leadership, self-control, self expression, honesty, fairness and perseverance are regularly reinforced throughout every phys. ed. Class. These skills can easily be connected to Gospel values and integrated throughout the entire curriculum at Trinity.



Kindergartners Trevor Francis, Sarah Connaway and Liam Drake attempted the climbing wall.

Goal Is Mature Living Skills

While students still play soccer, basketball or volleyball, they also participate in educational games, sports, rhythm, and dance activities that develop motor and movement skills. At the same time that they are developing personal living skills, students learn to observe safe conditions for games and sports. They learn how to handle equipment properly, how to recognize safety hazards and how injuries from physical activity can be prevented.



Mrs. Donna MacPherson

Commitment To Wellness Is Long-range

Trinity Catholic has made a conscientious effort to promote Wellness throughout the school. It developed a Wellness Plan three years ago through a grant sponsored by the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative, "Health Quest Move". The school has been determined to address the nutritional and fitness needs of all students.



Second graders participated in Dance-Dance Revolution.

CELEBRATING 103 YEARS OF SERVICE

With the aid of a few practical Catholic men among his parishioners, Fr. Thomas B. Fitzgerald initiated the organization known as the Knights of Columbus, the K. of C.

It was June 1906, thirty-one years after Sacred Heart Parish began.

The first Grand Knight was Thomas J. McNulty and the organization at its beginning had a membership of 41 members. In the early days meetings were held after 9 PM. Why? Many of the members were merchants in the town and their stores were opened late.

Member Clarence Kirkey sees the organization as a service to the Massena Community, its youth and all who need assistance. In the early years they sponsored the Fresh Air Youth Program, Soap Box Derby, and other youth programs. The scholarship program begun for Holy Family High School continues today for Trinity Catholic School.. The Muscular Dystrophy Telethon has been another key project. Earlier ball games were sponsored on their field behind the clubhouse on E. Orvis St.

Sponsoring children's Christmas party, distributing wrapped Christmas gifts to patients residing at Highland and St. Regis and Val Haven Homes are part of their outreach. K. of C. Ladies and Knights with the Lions Club sponsored a Handicap Christmas Party.

The K. of C. is a connection to parish and community as well as a support to one's family life. Lady Knights, spouses of the Knights, support these and the organization's other activities. As an organization it is dedicated to promoting service to the church and community through works of charity, efforts to promote family life and priestly vocations.

PARISH MUSIC HISTORY BEGAN EARLY

How many of us, while praying the Mass, have marveled at the huge brass pipes in the choir loft. Sacred Heart has a rich tradition of sacred music, beginning with those very pipes.

On May 27, 1924, Fr. Timothy Holland, pastor, signed a contract with the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vt., for \$5223.00 to build a pipe for the parish. The only condition was that it be ready for use by October 10, 1924. The parish would also incur the cost of freight, drayage and placement costs. This organ was to be installed in the new church on Main St., the present one.

The first choirmaster Professor Frank Cram from Crane Music School was hired to train and direct a senior choir. One year later he was replaced by Professor Orofino also from Crane. Interestingly, Orofino also directed an Italian band in Massena. It was known to play at the internment of some of our parishioners with Frank Pellegrino playing the banjo!

Professor Orofino directed the choir for 10 or 12 years with Mrs. Julia Prairie, wife of Dr. Charles Prairie. During that time, Mrs. Angeline (John) Amarel helped, eventually taking over as choir director. The parish was fortunate to have her services for 40 years until her death in 1973. At that time our own Elsie Scruggs took over. It was a time when Vatican Council precipitated some far-reaching changes in church music. Now the entire congregation was encouraged to participate with prayers and singing. Following Elsie was James Phillips who served for 2 years until his principal music commitments forced him to stop. We were fortunate to then acquire the services of our current music director Joyce Neilson.

Contributors:

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