

# THE SACRED HEART BEAT

OF SACRED HEART CHURCH, MASSENA, NY

September 2008

## REFLECTIONS

### BEING CATHOLIC GOES BEYOND THE ROSARY AND CHURCH

Not money, nor talent, not power, nor education, nor authority – nor lack thereof -- make a person intrinsically better or worse than another.

So what!

So, there follow some principles you and I should think about more often. As a little catechetical exercise for yourself try this. Read the following. They are priorities of Catholic Social Teaching:

Sacredness and Dignity of Human Life  
Call to Family and Community  
Human Rights with Responsibilities  
Special concern for the Poor and Vulnerable  
Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers  
Solidarity  
Care for God's Creation

Now, what are some current social problems we wrestle with today? Which Principles do they touch on?

In what ways can you encourage these Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to become priorities in our local community? In our state and nation?



*Catholic Charities Conference draws many parishioners*

## SEPTEMBER FOCUS

### .1983 – 2008???

These dates are important because this means Trinity Catholic School has been operating successfully as an educational institution for 25 years in Massena. Let's highlight some of the background of its beginnings and see what you remember or perhaps what you did not know.

#### **How did this happen?**

The 1982-1983 school year meant lots of anxiety & apprehension & emotion for many parishioners of all 3 local Catholic parishes. With the common purpose of protecting Catholic education in Massena, the pastors, school educators, parents and students teamed up and agreed to consolidate Sacred Heart School with St. Joseph's School.

#### **Who began the discussions?**

The three Massena pastors initiated the plan and included: Monsignor Floyd Brown of Sacred Heart, Father Leo Wiley of St. Mary's and Father Paul Worzak of St. Joseph's.

#### **Who helped with the planning?**

In addition to the three pastors, a school board was formed in 1983 to implement consolidation. Representing the 3 parishes on the board were: Mr. Bernie Kunkle, Mr. Jim Shaw, Mr. Thomas Chase, Mr. Robert LeBoeuf, Mrs. Kathy Bence, and Mrs. Sue Marlowe.

#### **How was the school named?**

Although several names were tossed about by

the students at Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's, including: Massena Catholic School, St. Anne's Catholic School, St. John's, and Trinity Catholic, it was the latter that gained the most support. Father Wiley made the motion to name the school and Trinity Catholic School was established.

### Who comprised the faculty and staff?

Sister Shirley Anne Brown, SSJ was appointed Principal and she interviewed and selected the first faculty. Teaching Kindergarten were: Tina Bronchetti Phillips and Sandra McElwain Thomas; 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers: Barb Tredo and Sister Peter Marie Capone, SSJ; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers: Sister Louise Genest, OSM and Pam Neil; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers Catherine Catanzarite Dix and Joan Rufa; 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers Ellen McKenna and Jeanne Corcoran; 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers Keely Dunshee and Sister Mary Helen Harmann, SSJ; 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers Ann Borsellino and Sister Mary Stephen, OSM (who also served as assistant principal); music teacher Randy Johnson; art teacher Gail Gotham; and physical education teacher William Dyke. The staff was composed of: secretary Paula Perry; cafeteria manager Cecile McDonald; cafeteria staff Norma Dupree, Mary Deshaies, and Phyllis LaCourse; and custodial staff Gerry Cullen and Al Vantine.

### Who attended?

There were 339 students enrolled in the first year with an average class size of 24 students. From the 3 parishes, 131 families were from Sacred Heart, 44 families from St. Joseph's and 51 families from St. Mary's.

### What did it cost?

The 1983-1984 school year had an operating budget of \$277,000. With an enrollment of 339 students from 226 families, the per pupil cost was \$818 and the tuition was \$160. The beginning teacher's salary was \$7,500 and fundraising brought in \$17,000.

### When do we start the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration?

Everyone in our 3 parishes are invited to attend our Kickoff Celebration with an all school mass at Sacred Heart Church on September 17<sup>th</sup> for 9:15am. Won't you plan to attend with us?

### What is coming in the next issue?

As we proceed through this faith filled year of remembrances, you will be able to read along as we share more highlights of Trinity Catholic School, in the next issue of *Sacred Heart Beat*.



*Educating for 25 years at Trinity:  
(Front row) Sr. Louise Genest, OSM and  
Principal Joan Rufa; (Back Row)  
Barb Tredo, Ann Borsellino &  
Sandy Thomas*

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

When you call the rectory, who is the gentle voice on the phone? For the past 24 years, Kathy Favreau has been the rectory gal Friday. Besides answering the phone, she has been responsible for the parish book-keeping, scheduling, recorder of baptisms, marriages, deaths, bulletin organizer, Pastor organizer...among other things. How does she manage to wear so many hats and keep her cool?

When I visited Kathy, the first thing I noticed was a neat desk. I'm always suspicious of someone who keeps a neat desk! Kathy explained that because her day is so varied, and sometimes unpredictable,



*Kathy Favreau with grandchildren  
Shane and Grace Favreau, son and  
daughter of Bill and Michelle  
Favreau*

she has had to learn to be organized. "I might be writing out a deposit slip", Kathy explained, "and someone would call to schedule a memorial Mass". Then Father's apt to ask when the wife died. Kathy

has had to learn how to make information readily available

Twenty five years ago Kathy was a singles stay-at-home Mom. Her husband had just died and she was left to care for 3 young ones. A friend suggested Massena School of Business. Since she had never worked outside the home, that seemed like a good place to start. As luck would have it, just as she was finishing her education, Msgr. Brown noted in the bulletin that the Church was looking for a secretary. Thus began a 24-year career that started much more simply than it now is. "I started with a typewriter and a phone," Kathy said. "Now we have computers and two phone lines coming in and three going out."

As her responsibilities increased, Kathy has risen to each new occasion. Often she finds herself listening to a disgruntled parishioner. Perhaps something was said at Mass that someone took offense to. Perhaps a family donation didn't go as planned. Modern methods and renovations to the Church are not always appreciated. Parishioners will call the rectory to voice their complaints. Sometimes emotions get in the way of reason. Kathy has developed an empathetic, non-judgmental way of listening to complaints and has often been able to diffuse arguments. She believes in talk, the parishioner talking, talking to the Pastor. She was once told she herself was carrying too many burdens that were unnecessary, and with this in mind, she can often put the problem in a new light. Parishioners who have had some of these personal experiences would say empathy and understanding are among Kathy's endearing qualities. Kathy responds, "Everyone's a human being."

When asked to describe her more rewarding challenges Kathy said, "Breaking in a new boss." There have been many changes in the leadership of Sacred Heart Parish, many different personalities, different work styles to adjust to. Kathy explains that though she has to adjust her day to the new Pastor, he also has to be able to work with her. She is aware that she may not be like his former secretary, and they both must make adjustments, but Kathy has learned to prioritize tasks, measure and weigh. In the end, Kathy Favreau has been a valuable resource for Sacred Heart Parish.

## LOCAL GROCERY CHAIN MAKES WELCOME DONATION

When St. Vincent DePaul Society president John Whalen heard the message on his answering machine from a representative of Penn Traffic, he was intrigued. The parent company of P&C Supermarkets was interested in holding a day-long fundraiser in Massena to benefit the Massena SVDP. What resulted, according to Whalen, was a no-strings-attached donation by the grocery store chain of approximately \$1,700.

Whalen, who has been the volunteer leader of the local Catholic relief agency for several years, said P&C donated 5% of its daily sales in the Massena store on Saturday, July 12. Sales of alcohol and tobacco products were excluded from the promotion. Thanks to advertising in the Courier-Observer and Watertown Times, Whalen said the people of Massena helped P&C raise money for St. Vincent's.

"I just want to thank all the people, not just the Catholics, who contributed to the effort by shopping at P&C July 12. St. Vincent DePaul also thanks store manager Mitch Marolf for going to bat for us", John said.

St. Vincent DePaul coordinator Toni Fiacco-Price noted the best part is the donated funds can be used wherever the need is. "We can help people with utility bills, medicines, rent payments; just about any reasonable request", she said.

Whalen and Fiacco-Price said the unplanned but very welcome donation came at a very opportune time for clients of the St. Vincent DePaul Society. "We've seen more people going through utility shut-offs this year than any time in the past 10 years", said Toni.

P&C store Manager Mitch Marolf said the donation came out of a desire by the grocer simply to do more than it has. "We make lots of small donations to groups in the area all year, but we thought it would be a good thing to do something for an organization that helps the whole community", he said.

SVDP officials point out that while welcome, the P&C donation does not diminish the need for donations of food, cash and good-quality used clothing and household items. But, says Fiacco-Price, "This community is very generous". It's that generous spirit that has helped the St. Vincent DePaul Society meet human needs for over a century and a half.



*P&C Store Manager Mitch Marolf*

### THREE PARISH PICNIC

**WHO** -- Sacred Heart, St. Lawrence, St. Mary/ St. Joseph Parishes  
**WHAT** -- Picnic  
**WHERE** -- Springs Park  
**WHEN** -- Sunday, September 14, 2008

**11:00 am Mass for ALL PARISHIONERS from these parishes with picnic to follow at the park**

**FOOD** - Parishes will supply meat & drinks  
**Parishioners:** A thru J, bring = salads  
K thru Z, bring = desserts

Bring lawn chairs (?!? Maybe jackets and/or gloves!?)

P.S. Please note that the food not eaten is given to Val Haven Home here in Massena.

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