

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

*6:30 a.m. Ginny Cole
8:00 a.m. Donald Suelzer

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

*6:30 a.m. Tran Van Hau
8:00 a.m. Barbara Caccamo

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

*6:30 a.m. Robert Sullivan
8:00 a.m. Clarence & Mary Frances Bechtel ALL MASS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

*6:30 a.m. Jerry Russo
8:00 a.m. For Victims of Terrorist's Attacks

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

8:00 a.m. Tim Morken
*5:30 p.m. Doris T. Hinsey

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

8:00 a.m. Mary & Jon Smith (34th anniv.)
5:30 p.m. Susan Brady

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

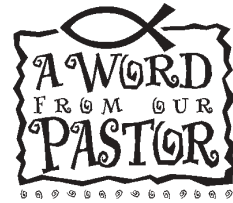
7:15 a.m. Robert Ambrisco
9:00 a.m. Claude Berkshire
11:00 a.m. For The Parish
6:00 p.m. Int. of Dick Foster & Family

*CHAPEL



FROM THE PASTOR

I am grateful to Sister Kay and Tom Campbell, parish Pastoral Council chairperson, for all the time and effort they put forth in preparing the parish Ministry Fair which was held this past Sunday. It was nice to see so many parish organizations and ministries represented at the fair. The fair was very helpful in reminding us to be good stewards of our time and talents. It was a great success.



During this month of November, when the Church gives special thought to the faithful departed, we turn our attention to the issue of death and Christian burial. We will be addressing this topic at all the Masses today. We pray that our words may be words of comfort.

Thank you very much for your great support of the 16th annual Bishop's Appeal. Thus far, we have surpassed our goal of \$308,342 by \$91,000. We are now contacting those parishioners who have yet to respond, so we anticipate an even larger overage. The money we collect over the goal is earmarked for a heating/ventilation/air conditioning system in the school and the repair of the church organ. Both of these projects, particularly the former, are high cost items, and we must continue to raise funds before we move on them.

Sister Mary Gerard Nwagwu is now in residence in our parish convent. Sister Mary, a member of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy of Umuhia, Nigeria, has a doctoral degree in canon law and lectures in canon law at a Nigerian Catholic University. She is in Fort Wayne on a one-year working sabbatical leave in our diocesan marriage tribunal. We warmly welcome Sister Mary to our parish.

SERVERS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 16th

8:00 a.m. Phoebe Davis, Zachary Baron
5:00 p.m. Ben Woenker, Nick Ferran
Lindsay Harris, Nicole Mullins

Sunday, November 17th

7:15 a.m. Molly Workman, Justin Martin
Jordan Fawcett, John Wood
9:00 a.m. Addi Tomlinson, MacKenzie Mentzer
Sarah VanAntwerp, Alexandria Leonard
11:00 a.m. Andrew Wyckoff, Elise Mayo
Ashley Reed, Rachel Morken

NURSERY - Nov. 17th

9:00 a.m. Jeff and Robin Grau

COFFEE AND DONUTS

9:00 a.m. Wineke



WEDDING BANNES

- III Darren Schreck and Kamy Keys
- I Andrew Hollingsworth and Rachel Freiburger
- I Ryan Wilson and Katie McCracken

NEWCOMERS REGISTRATION

Parish representatives will be in the Church Conference Room this Sunday, November 10, after the 9 a.m. Mass to welcome and register new members to St. Vincent's.

SESSIONS ON PRAYER OFFERED

Join us on Monday nights, Nov. 11, and 18, at 7:00 p.m. for a deeper insight into prayer. Add to or draw from a pool of wisdom to enrich your spiritual life. Ninety-minute sessions will be held in the Spiritual Center. All are welcome.



RCIC NEWS

On October 27 at the 9:00 Mass, nine children went through the Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming. They are: Brandon Mourey, Kelsey Salkeld, Lindsay Saldeld, Christian Belote, Nolan Bohnstedt, Michelle Compres, Kelsey Magsam, Ashleigh Moran-Dunno and Alexis Sadler. Please keep these children in your prayers as they continue on their journey.

NEW SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITITES POSSIBLE

1. IF YOU ARE A COUPLE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN AND HAVE WANTED TO JOIN A SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WITH THAT MAIN "FLAVOR", HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PIONEER! With a few more couples we could begin our 47th community. Is this an invitation God is putting in front of you for adult faith growth? WE ALREADY HAVE A LEADER FOR THE GROUP. CALL me at 489-3537, ext. 207. SISTER KAY
2. ALSO, we have a request to start a MAINLY SINGLES (Men and Women's group, late 30's on up), as a SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. If anyone is interested in pursuing this, please contact S. Kay.

**REGISTRATION NEEDED NOW:
PASTORAL FACILITATOR TRAINING**

SAT., NOV. 16, 2002

Any Pastoral Facilitator who has not attended a training morning once during his/her time of service to the community is expected to attend this session OR the Spring session, May 10th. If your community has discerned a new PF to change in the next year or so, please consider sending that person(s) also. The Agenda: 8 a.m. Holy Mass together (if you can)
8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Gathering in Spiritual Center with light breakfast available
8:45 - approximately 11:30 a.m. Introductions, Training, Prayer, and...and...and...!



Training Class

Please, we need your registration now: 489-3537. Please bring your questions and your prayerful self.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is an ongoing process. The time involved differs with the baptized/unbaptized and the catechized and uncatechized. Each person's circumstance is different. If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, call the church office and ask for Judy. A brief interview will help determine where you are in the process.

CAN YOU GIVE A LIFT?

There are two parishioners who need a ride for any weekend Mass: a woman who lives in Northcrest addition and a man living in Ridgebrook Village Mobile Home Park off Washington Center Road. If you can help out, please call the church office and leave a message for Deb Andrews.

SAINT VINCENT'S OCTOBER 2002 COLLECTION

FOUR WEEKS

Total collection in envelopes	\$	170,034
Total collection in loose		7,898
	\$	177,932
Average weekly collection	\$	44,483
Project Solidarity for October	\$	5,498



CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP

"Sharing my Halloween candy with my baby sister Sammie."
Ellen O. and Winnie O.
"I built a puzzle with my little brother."
Mike G.

Meetings of the Week

SESSION ON PRAYER – Monday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
 MEN'S CLUB – Monday, November 11th, at 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall
 THE WORD – TWO BY TWO – Tuesday, November 12th, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room
 SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST – Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church
 RCIA – Tuesday, November 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
 ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT – Wednesday, November 13th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Reservation Chapel
 WINGS – Wednesday, November 13th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center
 PASTORAL COUNCIL – Wednesday, November 13th, at 6:30 pm. in the Church Conference Room
 MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE – Wednesday, November 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Room
 BEREAVEMENT SESSION – Wednesday, November 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
 MOTHERS GATHERED IN PRAYER – Thursday, November 14th, at 8:30 a.m. in the East Meeting Room
 WINGS TOO – Thursday, November 14th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center
 BAPTISMAL PREPARATION II – Thursday, November 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Meeting Room
 DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP – Thursday, November 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room
 MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST – Friday, November 15th, at 6:00 a.m. at Omega Restaurant

DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP

Come join us on Thursday, November 14, at 7 p.m. in the Spiritual Center. The topic for this meeting is how we deal with grief. For more information, call the church office at 489-3537.



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

If you would like to meet some of your fellow parishioners for some prayer, fellowship and food to begin your day off on the right foot, plan to join men of the parish at the Omega Family Restaurant on Coliseum Boulevard this Friday, November 15th, at 6:00 a.m. ALL MEN ARE WELCOME!

TURKEY BINGO! – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

Doors to the parish hall open at 5:30 p.m. with calling starting at 6 p.m. Play bingo and win a turkey for your Thanksgiving Feast. Come out and support our athletic program! Sponsored by the Men's Club.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' TRAINING

We are now accepting names of persons who would like to be a Special Minister of Holy Communion at the Sunday Eucharist or to the homebound. If you are interested in this liturgical ministry or can recommend someone, you may call the church office. All candidates for this ministry must be present for a training session; however, attendance at this meeting is by invitation only, and so it is important that we have the names of potential candidates as soon as possible. The training session is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23.

Special Minister of Holy Communion must be a registered member of the parish, at least a junior in high school, a Catholic in good standing with the Church, and a person with a good reputation in the community. It is assumed, of course, that the candidate has a love for our Lord in the Eucharist and a desire to deepen this love through this beautiful ministry. We ask you to recommend a RCIA man or woman of the parish, or you may submit your own name.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Attendance at two Baptismal Preparation Sessions is required before your child is baptized. They are Session I and Session II. You may attend Session II before Session I, if necessary. Each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the East Meeting Room. It is recommended that you attend before the birth of your child so that there will be no delay in setting a date for the baptism once the baby is born. Godparents, too, are welcome. Please call the church office to register for your sessions.

Session I	Session II
November 7	November 14
November 21	

THERE ARE NO SESSIONS IN DECEMBER.

Session I	Session II
January 9	January 16
January 23	

Advertisers of the Week

Please patronize the companies that support our bulletin.

Judy Meiklejohn at 490-6113 to make your reservation today.

MEN'S CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND

The next Christ Renews His Parish weekend for men will be held on February 22-23, 2003. It will enrich your spiritual life with fellowship, scripture and prayer. Call Len Pirocato at 489-2294 or e-mail him at Lpiro@comcast.net.

K OF C MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The family Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 6-8 p.m. in the parish hall. Dinner is at 6 p.m. If your last name begins with A-P please bring a side dish. If your last name begins with Q-Z please bring a dessert. Santa will arrive at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Dan Roy by phone (637-8010) or e-mail (DJABJ@aol.com) with the number of adults and children attending. Please provide the gender and age of the children as well.

HOLIDAY COOKIE WALK AND BAKE SALE

Saturday, November 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne is sponsoring this cookie walk and bake sale in the Parish Hall. Come choose from a wide variety of homemade pastries and specialty items. A few choice items will also be raffled off. Just in time for the holidays -the baking has been done for you! All proceeds will be used to directly assist disadvantaged children in Fort Wayne.

INTRODUCING ... LIFE IS FOR EVERYONE

An exciting Life Teen project has come to fruition. There was some money left over from our World Youth Day fundraising and the teens have raised additional money by babysitting at the Life House. As part of our "Culture of Life" Life Night, the teens designed outdoor billboards containing pro-life messages. Lesley Wright, who served on our core team last year, took the teens' design and created the artwork. I contacted Burkhart Advertising to purchase a billboard and worked with Lorna Stanley who made it possible for us to have six signs posted. Andrea Koehl, who is serving as our publicity coordinator, sent out press releases leading to a news story on Channel 15. We at St. Vincent's know what a terrific group of teens we have; now the whole city will know that our young people are firmly committed to all life. Pray for those who see them to embrace our message, and use the billboard as an opportunity to promote a culture of life in your conversations. As of Monday, the signs have been posted! Look for them at these locations: US 30 west of Washington Center (east side), 1928 W. Coliseum Blvd. (north side), 3711 Wells St. (west side), 3801 Northrop (west side), 4210 N. Wells (east side), Huguenard Road, south of Goshen (east side)

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

- Nov. 10 No Life Night
- Nov. 11 JHL planning 7 p.m.
- Nov. 13 Ministry Hour, 7:15
- Nov. 14 Pray at Abortion Clinic, 7 a.m.
- Nov. 17 No Life Night: Return from Retreat

GOD IS FOREVER"

FALL RETREAT: Nov. 15 - 17

Please pray for all planning and attending the Life Teen retreat. Our Father will hear and answer us.



JUNIOR HIGH LIFE

Thanks to all 7th and 8th graders for your reverence and participation as we explored the issue of "Death and Souls." Our next JHL night is November 18th, "Love One Another."

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 ★ For information about St. Vincent's Youth Ministry, ★
 ★ contact Cindy Black at 489-3537 Ext. 228 or ★
 ★ e-mail Cblack@SaintV.org. ★
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COMMUNITY IN CHRIST: RESPONSIBILITY
 "If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders."
 Abigail Van Buren

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents of second graders who will make their First Reconciliation are required to attend one of two meetings. The second meeting will be held this Sunday, November 10th at 7:30 p.m. in the church.

The Confirmation Commitment Ceremony will be held during the Masses on November 16 and 17. This week candidates must hand in the form indicating which Mass they will attend that weekend.

All catechist positions are filled at this time. Our most recent newcomer is Allison Heffner, a sophomore at Carroll High School, who is instructing a class of 3 year olds during the 11:00 Mass. A special thank you to Mary Kay Ehlerding, who substituted until a permanent catechist volunteered.

Catechists for grade 5 in the Religious Education program include Karen Myers, Patty Mathews, and Cathy Weimer. Students at this level study the Sacraments with an emphasis on our greatest source of grace, Eucharist.

RAINBOWS PROGRAM

We are getting ready to begin this year's Rainbows program. It is designed for children who have experienced any loss such as a death or divorce, but can also include those children who have moved and are having a hard time adjusting to a new situation. Our tentative start date is the week of Nov. 11.



FAMILY RETREAT DAY

Please come join us for a day of family fun and spirituality on Sunday, November 17, 2002 from 2:00 - 5:00. We will be focusing on Advent and prayer. The evening will culminate with a potluck dinner. We will provide the ham and you provide the "potluck" and a drink to share. (A-I salad; J-P veggie/potato; R-Z dessert). This is for school age children and their family. Please let us know when making your reservation if babysitting will be needed. Call Ann Barbieri at 482-3735 or Yvonne Dahm at 637-1519 for reservations (or questions) by November 13. Hope to see you there!!

SUPER DISCOUNT CARDS

Super savings on 34 local merchants - dry cleaning, pizza, videos, ice cream, clothing, and much more! Only \$5.00 per card. The cards make wonderful Christmas gifts. All proceeds go toward St. Vincent Catholic School's 8th grade Spring trip to Washington D.C. Ask any St. Vincent 8th grader or call Karen Woodrum (489-2518) or Tami Peters (627-0730).

JAMES E. ROBINSON MERIT SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED AT B.D.

Bishop Dwenger High School will offer the James E. Robinson Merit Scholarship exam for incoming 9th grade students on Saturday, December 7, 2002. Dwenger will award \$5,000 in scholarship money to the top students. Testing begins at 9 a.m. and will cover math, science, and English. Registration deadline is November 22, 2002. Call Melissa Wiehe at 496-4701 for information.

HARVEST HOUSE PLANS TOUR

St. Vincent Harvest House will tour Bircraft, Inc., Huntington, on Tuesday, November 12, 2002, at 10 a.m. We will meet at the parking lot of the new church at 9 a.m. We will have lunch at Joseph Decuis in Roanoke. Please call 482-2085 or 483-7252 to let us know that you are going. You do not have to be a member to join us. The tour is handicapped accessible.

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVES

The Knights of Columbus will hold blood drives on the following dates: December 7, 2002 and March 15 and June 7, 2003. These dates are all on Saturday. The blood drive will be held in the Parish Hall each time from 8 a.m. til 12 noon. To schedule an appointment, call Bruce Cadwell at 484-0078.



NEWS FROM THE 19-30'S GROUP

Do you know someone 19-30's looking for fun, faith and fellowship? There is a group that has formed at St. Vincent's with common goals of bettering the community through service and sharing our faith with people our own age.

This group already includes many members ranging in age from 22 to mid 30's. We are currently planning fun filled activities and service projects. We would love for new members to join us and share our faith.

For more information, please contact Nick Busch at 637-1980.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND

We have reinstated the Capital Improvement envelope in the monthly packet of the Sunday collection envelopes. We find this necessary because we need to begin to accumulate funds to help us pay for the following: organ repair, school boiler replacement, updating the air conditioner in the spiritual center, and large repairs. Some parishioners, having completed their building campaign pledge, will see this as an opportunity to continue giving in support of needed improvements for the maintenance and upkeep of the parish plant.

FALL LEAVES?

Once again the Knights of Columbus will offer fall leaf cleanup for the elderly and disabled. Please contact Jim Cox II at 492-7705 for help. Please call before the leaves fall, and enjoy the color change!

SCRIP SALES

Weekly sales every Sunday from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. and following Life Teen Mass in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your support.

ST. VINCENT EMPLOYERS-UNEMPLOYED LINK

Realizing that many people in our parish and area have lost their jobs and are looking, we want to help. We are asking you, as owners and managers of businesses in the area to:

- Send by **TUESDAY MORNING, IN WRITING OR E-MAIL** (stvincentchurch@hotmail.com)

1. An open position you are aware of
2. The name of the company and address
3. The contact person and how to reach him or her

God is in every part of our journey!

PARISHIONERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

To assist active, registered members in their search for employment in these difficult economic times, we will designate one column of the bulletin on the second Sunday of each month to this effort.

**Office Assistant/Manager: Mary 489-7692

This is a service to assist and not an endorsement from St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Submit to the church office in writing or by e-mail stvincentchurch@hotmail.com:

1. Position you are seeking (excluding qualifications)
2. Full name and phone number

Bulletin deadline is noon on Tuesdays.

NEEDED

Donate your car, truck or van for a good cause. Many people are in need of a good running vehicle. And it is a tax write-off for you. Call the Saint Vincent de Paul Store at 456-3561.

HIS SPIRIT AMONG US

Adoration affords us the opportunity to become quiet. Quiet enough to hear what His Spirit is saying, and calm enough to reflect upon the deeper meaning of experience, in order to learn what God wants to reveal to us through persons and events in our lives.

On Wednesday's, our parish is privileged to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the day until 4 p.m. in the Reservation Chapel. We are required to have at least two people praying as long as the Sacrament is on the altar for this type of adoration. Please contact Mary Anne Brown at 489-4823 if you would like to do this and be scheduled for a specific hour. Drop-ins are welcome.

9:00 NURSERY WELCOMES YOUR CHILD

Parents... The 9:00 nursery is located off the Gathering Space behind the parent's alcove. If you are finding that your child (age 1-3) is having a difficult time at Mass, you may want to consider participating in this co-op. Please call Rita at 489-0522 for more information or to get registered.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING INITIAL SESSION

Thursday, November 21st, 2002, there will be a class at St. Jude parish in Fort Wayne. The class runs from 7 - 9 p.m. This class is conducted by the diocesan Office of Family Life and is open to engaged and married couples. The fee for the session is \$25.00. Registration is required. To register, call (574) 234-0687 or contact the rectory for a registration form.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

The Parkview YMCA will be having Midnight Madness for middle-schoolers on Friday, November 15th, from 9 p.m. until 12 a.m. All preteens in grades 6-8 are invited to come and take over the YMCA. We will get a DJ to spin the hits, munchie/snack food provided, you can play ball in the gym, climb the wall, or use the pool to lounge in. The only rule is that once you leave the building you will not be granted permission to come back in. The fee for this event is \$3, payable the night of the event. Any questions contact Kimberly Ulrich at 497-9996.

CRAFT BAZAAR

St. Mary's in Avilla is sponsoring a craft bazaar on Sunday, November 10th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school hall. All handmade items, over 30 crafters, and food will be available.

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL TURKEY BINGO

Will be held on Sunday, November 17th at 12 noon at St. Andrew's parish hall, 2610 New Haven Avenue. Prizes are turkeys and cash. Refreshments will be available.

IPFW - DINNER SERIES "A TASTE OF ITALY"

This Fundraising Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2002, at Don Hall's Guesthouse. The menu includes: Italian Wedding Soup, Caesar Salad, Raspberry Sorbet, Shrimp Scampi, Green Beans Amandine, Risotto, Tiramisu, Assorted Hot Breads, Wine, Coffee, Tea and Water. \$30 per person. For tickets, please contact: Lauren (260) 416-0536 or Louise (260) 481-6562.



THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER FOR SENIORS

Thursday, November 28th at the K of C Hall, 601 Reed Road from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Open to Seniors 55 years and older. Call 485-2005 to make reservations. Reservations are taken by phone until November 22nd. Transportation provided if necessary. No cost and donations are welcome.

ROSE HOME AND SHEPHERD'S HOUSE

We are trying to decorate these two shelters for the Christmas season and are in need of the following items to make this happen: Christmas lights, decorations, stockings and canned foods for Christmas dinner. Also, please pray for sober, responsible, and loving clients. Call Barb Cox at 424-2500 for more information or if you can help.

DEADLINE SET FOR HEINZ LABELS

Unfortunately, Heinz Corporation is discontinuing its label program with local hospitals. No reason was given. Labels will not be collected after November 11, 2002. Our parish will have sent in approximately 15,000 labels this past year. At 6 cents per label that amounts to \$900.00 of the more than \$60,000 that Riley's Children's Hospital has received from Heinz. Thank you so very much to everyone that collected labels.

GIVE YOUR KIDS THE BEST GIFT THEY CAN GET -

PARENTS WITH A GREAT MARRIAGE

And all you have to do is attend a WorldWide Marriage Encounter Weekend. If you'd like greater depth, growth and intimacy in your relationship, you'll like the difference a WorldWide Marriage Encounter Weekend can make! Upcoming weekend is scheduled for November 15-17 in South Bend. Registration is limited. For more information or to register, call Mike and Julia at (574) 243-0743.



CEMETERY LOTS AVAILABLE

Two cemetery spaces at Covington Memorial Garden "Garden of Last Supper" are for sale. Going price currently is \$825/per space. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Please contact Sherry Miller at the parish office - 489-3537 Ext. 209.

TWO CEMETERY PLOTS

For sale two cemetery plots in Highland Park's Catholic section. Asking \$1,000. Contact church office.

CEMETERY SITE AVAILABLE

A parishioner has a lot in Highland Park Cemetery located in the St. Vincent's Garden. If interested, call Jody at 637-8125.



A Heavenly View

Dear Padre,

Little kids have such a strange view of heaven. In their minds, heaven is the place where you get everything you want. How are we to view heaven as adults?

Gazing Toward Paradise

Dear Gazing,

One can only hope that our view of heaven changes as we grow older, become more spiritually centered, and move closer to our own death and resurrection. The difficulty with imagining heaven is that we have no direct knowledge or experience of it. We do know that the life of heaven is a radically new and different kind of existence. Corinthians tells us: "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). We do know from Scripture that heaven is the dwelling place of God and of angels, and a place of eternal happiness for all who have been saved (Rv. 21:1,3-4). We also know that in heaven we will see God face to face, as God truly is (1 Jn 3:2). We know that heaven is fullness of life and love: life without illness, without strife, without death (Rv. 7:16-17), and love without limitation, imperfection, or ending.

Saint Augustine reminds us that whatever we find beautiful or desirable in this world is but a faint reflection of God. How many times in this life have you experienced moments and times of joy, happiness, and fulfillment? But these never last. They slowly dissipate. These are hints of the beauty and loveliness of God that can enable us to imagine what our happiness will be like when we are in the presence of God forever.

Here is a simple daily practice to help you center your thoughts on heaven. At the beginning of the day, commit yourself to noticing what makes you happy and joy-filled as you go through your day. At day's end remember those events, and then thank God for these little hints that remind you of the fullness of your eternal home yet to come in heaven.

The Padre
Rev. Paul J. Coury, C.Ss.R.

GOOD NEWS

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Mc 7:1-2,9-14; 2 Thes 2:16-3:5; Lk 20:27-38

Hans Christoffersen

Years ago, I used to take communion to a woman, Anna, who was homebound. Feeble and advanced in years, she suffered from a variety of diseases, the combination of which eventually would lead to her death. She was fully aware of this, and our weekly visits became a treasured time of sharing our wonder, fears, and hopes about life, faith, death, and the mystery of the triune God. Having lived much of her adult life in France, she soon got me into the habit of leaving her with an *Au revoir* ("Until we see each other again"). This went on for a little more than a year, during which time she grew increasingly weaker. Ever more often, I could see that her doctor had been there, and painkillers gave way to injections. During this whole process, it amazed me how her eyes seemed to become ever more radiant while the rest of her feeble frame seemed only to fade away.

One day, when we were talking about the unity of the Eucharist - our bread for the journey - she asked me to read from chapter seventeen of John's Gospel, the place where Jesus prays that "those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory" (Jn 17:24). Afterwards, when I got ready to leave and pronounced my usual, heavily accented *Au revoir*, she looked me deeply in the eyes and said, "No...*Adieu!*" ("To God"). That very night, she died quietly in her sleep, alone, but, I'm convinced, within a deep sense of communion.

At her funeral, it dawned on me that we had never talked about what "heaven is like." This was not because of lack of faith in the concept of eternal life but more of a shared, yet unspoken, insight that we are totally unable to imagine a state of life other than the one we're in. A good part of the problem many people, believers and nonbelievers alike, have with eternal life stems from an inability to imagine it as other than a continuation of life as we already know it.

So even though the focus today is on eternal life and the connection between resurrected life and life as we know it, Jesus does not bother with human analogies. Recently, Pope John Paul II likewise spoke forcefully of the afterlife not as "a place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Trinity," and encouraged us to participate, even now, in this ultimate reality rather than being preoccupied with how to describe it.

Jesus, Pope John Paul, and Anna all show us that as we live and die, so we "become" eternally. Only in an encounter with the living God and in throwing ourselves into that encounter here and now, in communion, in sickness and in health, in trial and in hope, will the desire of our hearts become our fulfillment.