



Saint Monica Messenger

September 2010, Issue Fifteen

Bringing the Good News of the Parish to You

Growing in Faith as a Community

Focus on St. James Community

The St. James Small Christian Community (SCC) is a diverse group of parishioners. Although some of us have been together through the Renew 21 Program and are now together in "Why Catholic?", we welcomed others who were new to our group. For most of our weekly sessions, a woman of the Lutheran faith joined us as well. We learned a little of the similarities and differences in each of our faiths.

Since the Saint James SCC consists of 19 parishioners, by "going around the table" each person was given an opportunity to share their thoughts during the "Sharing our Faith" times in the sessions. Using the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* and *Catechism of the Catholic Church* we were available to clarify misunderstandings or answer questions about the topic at hand.

Some of the members of the St. James SCC shared their thoughts and experiences about being a part of the group. One woman felt that there were others in the group who because of their great faith were an inspiration to keep her growing in her faith. Another commented that she felt stronger about her faith with each session. A couple shared that "Why Catholic?" has



Seated: Susan Walwik, Joyce Smith, Angie Spena; Standing: Jeff Motl, Kathy Motl, June Welsh, Joe Welsh, Ann Poupore, W.L. Jones, Tracy McKeown, Frank Fraize, Hazel Fraize, Rita Smith
Not present for photo: Ernie Poupore, Lindsey Motl, Mike McKeown, Marlyn Rogers, Carmen Cummings, Nancy Gonzalez, Daniel Rita

helped them to love one another unconditionally and give from the heart, expecting nothing in return; to be good stewards of God's creation; to pray when we need help; and to praise and thank Him for the hope that he gives us through the Holy Spirit and the sacraments. Another person stated that "Small group sharing helped me realize that everyone has the same everyday life and faith struggles. By sharing with others, I learn my situation is not unique. Everyone struggles to keep the relationship they have with Christ growing."

The St. James SCC has just begun and we have a way to go to meet Father Ignatius' mission of "functioning as a basic unit of the parish, doing things we do in the parish in a more reflective and relational way, helping each other to connect life and faith...fulfilling the four basic elements of being church, namely communion, learning or formation, prayer and service."

The next issue's focus:

St. James the Lesser Small Christian Community

Sharing time and talents with our communities

St. Monica's Family Fest Biggest Gathering Yet!!

Not even rain could keep the biggest crowd ever (over 200) from coming to enjoy a day with their parish family. After the Lord saw our determination, He gave us a beautiful day during the time we were together. This grace allowed even more fun and craziness to occur. As the faithful Knights of Columbus grilled our lunch, there were many games and socializing to be done.



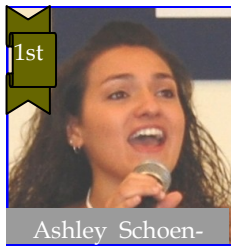
Outside was the water zone. If you stayed dry, then you were not in the field!! For there was water balloons, sponge relays, penguin walks and even bucket wars. Not to mention, the water from the watermelon eating contest. While those who decided to stay dry, were getting to know each other better with identity bingo. Twenty-three people must really know our parishioners because they blacked out their card.



After lunch old and young alike competed in cake walks to take home one of the thirteen fabulous homemade cakes that each of our small Christian Communities brought. Then came the entertainment of the day, "St. Monica's Got Talent" show hosted by Mandy Connor. There was singing, and dancing, acrobats and shall we say comedy, with the Chicken Dancers and the "My Guy Choir". In true fashion, after the audience voted, the winners were Ashley Schoendorf, Phillip Scranton and Charlie Fortner.



Mandy Connor



Ashley Schoen-



Phillip Scranton



Charlie Fortner



Madison and Savannah Landenberger



June Welsh



Amanda Rash



Mark Motl



Jamin Methvin



Charlotte Scran-



Matt Harris



The Meeks



The Chicken Dancers



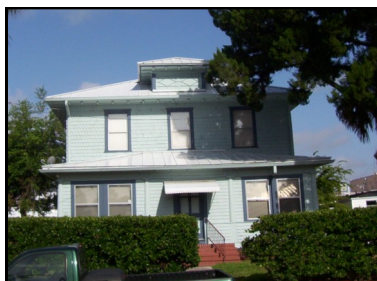
My Guy Choir



★ ★ ★ St. Monica's Family Has FUN ★ ★ ★

The Lazy Days of Summer were put to good use by Father Ignatius. For he took this opportunity to revitalize some of our leaders in their ministries. Our Music Ministry Leader, Cindy Gilmore, with our Liturgical Committee Leader, Julie Fazio, attended the **Pastoral Musician Conference**, where psalmists and cantors skills and techniques were reinforced and new methods were provided that will enrich the liturgical experience. Our RCIA Leader, Karen Lee with Harry Burrigge attended the **RCIA Workshop** where they discussed ways to welcome our neophytes (newly converted Catholics) into the parish family and activities. Harry also attended with Larry Beaton the **School of Theology: Biblical Literary Forms**. They had the privilege of meeting author Dr. Margaret Duttig Ralph and heard her present her ideas on Catholics reading the bible, which are explained in her books: *And God Said What?* and *A Walk Through the New Testament: An Introduction for Catholics*. Harry highly recommends both books, but especially the latter since Dr. Ralph takes the reader book by book through the New Testament. The summer ended with fifteen parishioners, some were Small Christian Community Facilitators while others were not, went to Gainesville to hear Sister Pat Thomas, OP, from WHY CATHOLIC? discuss **"Scripture and Tradition"**. Sister Pat explained that our traditions handed down from the apostles and the Word of the Lord make us who we are, Catholics.

Have You Noticed our summer repairs? While the sun was high in the sky, so were the repairs at St. Monica. The church steeple was repaired and painted. The rectory and our hall were given new metal roofs. In addition, the east wall of the hall was enclosed after the huge exhaust fans were removed.



Knights of Columbus Receive Award Father Ignatius was not the only one who spent his time wisely. Our Knights of Columbus, Council #5758 of Palatka, due to their continued dedication to sponsor programs that serve the Church, community, families, pro-life, youth and Council members, was announced the winner of the **Columbian Award** for the Fraternal Year 2009-2010. The announcement was made by Supreme Knight, Carl A. Anderson, President of the International Organization, in New Haven, CT. Past Grand Knight, Joe Welsh, accepted this prestigious award for the Council from Jonadrian Rice, our parishioner and District Deputy, at a ceremony held Monday, September 20, 2010.

Their most recent project was the Wheel Chair Mission. Council #5758 of Palatka and the Ladies Club of Welaka together purchased twelve new wheelchairs. Six of them have been given to local veterans, four of whom live at Barry Manor. Internationally, the Knights of Columbus have given 400,000 wheelchairs to veterans and needy children around the world over the past 3-4 years.



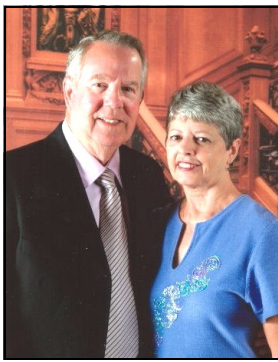
Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Congratulations goes out to two wonderful couples, Alberto and Cris David and Richard and Barbara Faunce, who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. May they continue to be fine examples of strong and successful marriages to all of our younger couples.



Dr. and Mrs. David

Others who are observing their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th or 50th may participate in the Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Victor Galeone November 6, 2010 at 1:00 pm at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Gainesville. Registrations are mandatory and the deadline is October 27, 2010.



Mr. and Mrs. Faunce

Catholic Charities USA
Centennial Celebration
 100 Years of Service, Advocacy, and Convening

Over 100 years Catholic Charities has been part of the solution to the problem of poverty. Putnam County's Catholic Charities, located in Barry Manor, continues this mission. On September 17th and 24th, they held their annual fish fry fundraiser dinners at St. Monica's Hall. All proceeds from these functions remain in Putnam County to help its many families and seniors in need. Michelle Blevins, Development Director, stated, "We are thrilled to say that this year's events were another great success. We are so grateful to Fr. Ignatius and all the staff and parishioners at St. Monica's for their continued support of Catholic Charities and Barry Manor, and look forward to the future."

Small Christian Communities everywhere...

SCC Are All Across the Nation and World

St. Monica attended the National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring Into Communities, NAPRC, Conference in Tampa on July 23rd.

During this conference, three of our Small Christian Community Facilitators accompanied Father Ignatius to experience the national involvement into making parishes into small church communities. There were representatives from every diocese in Florida along with 12 other states. The NAPRC Board Members are from five states. There is even a Global Collaborative Website for Small Christian Communities to share and witness to one another God's presence in their lives from and for the six continents of the world! (www.smallchristiancommunities.org)

NAPRC is based on Rev. Art Baranowski's book, "Creating Small Faith Communities" which offers a model of "Being Church" from which Fr. Ignatius wrote about in his "Message from the Pastor" on the cover of St. Monica Messenger, Issue 11, November 2009 and has become his vision for our mission.

This model's purpose is building an atmosphere in which ordinary people help each regularly connect their faith and life, by *pausing* during life, *reflecting* on how God is in our life, *sharing* that blessing with another and *praying* for continued guidance. By slowing down our lives even for a few moments, we can identify the priorities of our life with that of our faith. This will then define a parish not by its programs or just meeting the needs of its parishioners, but by a relationship with God, each other and the bigger community. This makes the parish both reflective and relational, not just a "gas station that you stop in for service". As one of the presenters stated, "currently many parishes live in the world and go to church, but with Small

Church Communities parishes live in the church and go to the world with the Good News."

Each SCC does not become a separate church, but is officially connected by its Facilitator to the Pastor, who is connected to the Bishop of the Diocese, who is connected to the Pope of the universal church.

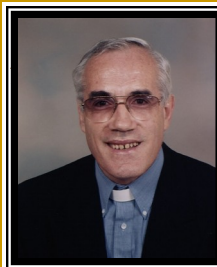


R-L: Diane Mutchie, Charlene Shepard Father Ignatius and Harry BurrIDGE

A few Testimonials from parishes who are "doing things differently" are:

- "We stay rooted and focused on being Catholic";*
- "We feel that we belong and have ownership of our parish";*
- "We become aware of each other and the community";*
- "I feel that it matters if I am here"; and,*
- "I recognize God in others and feel God more in myself".*

In other words, this day was quite full of guidance and strengthening tools to reinforce our twelve Small Christian Communities as a life style. We also noted Father's original idea of inclusiveness by reaching out to those who may not be active in a community with our extended communities.



Father Tom Walsh Retires

4 pm Christmas Auction Former Pastor (1979– 1987)

Recently Father Walsh shared his acceptance letter of his retirement from Bishop Galeone with San Sebastian, his current parish, effective October 15 ,2010.

Since Fr. Walsh certainly left his print on St. Monica, we would like to take this time to honor him for the many years that he led and guided us. Not only did he unite many of our current families and baptize many of our grown children, he gave us many things we still enjoy today. In 1982, Father Walsh had the ceilings in the hall lowered, and while the hall was being reroofed he had the foresight to add four additional classrooms. In 1984, Father Walsh had the white paint blasted off our lovely brick exterior and remodeled the interior by removing the black and white altar tiles and white wall paneling. And many of our children still use the St. Monica school bus service to Cathedral Parish School and St. Joseph Academy which he began. We wish him the best and a very restful retirement.

Upcoming Events ...

October 3	9 am	International Rosary St. Monica Catholic Church after Mass
October 10		"Why Catholic?" Season 2
October 30	2pm – 5pm	Swampfest An ecumenical festival down Oak Street from 3rd to 5th Streets
November 2	5:30 pm	All Souls Mass St. Monica Cemetery, Osceola St., Palatka
November 6	8am – 1pm	Flea Market St. Monica Hall hosted by Ladies Guild
December 12	1pm-4 pm	Christmas Auction