

# Genesis Vicariate Newsletter

~ APRIL 2011 EDITION ~

## **A LETTER FROM THE VICAR**

My thanks to the parishioners who have stepped forward to be participants in this year's "Together in Faith II" planning process. Since the end of February this dedicated group has gathered every two weeks to study the data and attempt to interpret what direction that information is pointing us toward as we challenge ourselves to live up to Archbishop Vigneron's mission for the church of Detroit to see Christ in and through the church.

My suggestion to every parishioner is that you ponder the very same questions that your parish representative is responding to at the Vicariate level. Here are some of the questions in their proper category:

### I. Parish Reflection Questions:

- ✦ As you think about your parish, what are the core values or key factors that describe the vitality and essential, life giving qualities of your parish?
- ✦ Describe the five most inspiring hopes and dreams for the future of your parish – what things do parishioners hope will be happening five to seven years from now, that would most enhance parish vitality and life?
- ✦ What kind of Catholic school opportunity would you like to see available for your parish families?

### II. External Data Questions pertain to the stability of our neighborhoods:

- ✦ How has your neighborhood changed over the past five years? What have the foreclosures and abandonment's meant to your parish?
- ✦ How has job loss or growth affected your parish? What happens in the future?
- ✦ What does the population loss in your parish neighborhood mean for the parish itself? Do you feel the economic affect on your social outreach program?
- ✦ How many of your parishioners are over 65? What types of ministry/services does your parish offer to the elderly?
- ✦ Does your parish have ministry for the young people in your parish? How many young adults feel that there is a place for them in your parish?
- ✦ Currently our Genesis Vicariate has one Catholic school located at St. Bartholomew / St. Rita parish. Where do the school age children in your parish go for Catholic school education?

### III. Internal Data Questions pertain to the uniqueness of your own parish:

- ✦ How has your parish changed over the past five years? What makes your parish unique to your needs, i.e., language, ethnic affiliation, etc.
- ✦ Has your parish grown in membership over the past five years or is it getting smaller? Does this change mirror what is happening in your neighborhoods?
- ✦ How many of your parishioners live within the parish boundaries? What does this mean for your ministerial activities?
- ✦ Are all of your parish buildings being used – or are some of them empty and awaiting a new mission?
- ✦ Given the size of your parish church and seating capacity, are you making best use of your parish staff's time & talent? Could you share some of your parish staff with a neighboring parish?
- ✦ Has your pastor and Finance Council shared with the parishioners how solvent the parish is for the future? Do you use rental income to finance your operations?

Above all, keep the Catholic church of Detroit in your prayers during these wonderful days of Lent and Easter!

Msgr. LeFevre

Vicar, Genesis Vicariate



**PASSION PLAY** ~ The students of St. Bartholomew Catholic School will be performing our annual Passion Play. Please come out and support the children as they take you through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus on Wednesday, April 13th, 1 pm at St. Bartholomew Church, 2291 E. Outer Drive, Detroit. For more information, please call Sharon Perko at (313) 366-3640 or email [stbartholomew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stbartholomew@sbcglobal.net).

**LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS** ~ Blessed Sacrament is pleased to present the "Living Stations of the Cross, A New Musical Drama" in April for Lent 2011. This is the first performance of its kind! Experience the Passion like never before. It is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes in length, Space is limited, so reserve your seats today! For information or to reserve your seats, please visit [www.livingstations.org/production-info](http://www.livingstations.org/production-info) or call the Parish Office at (313) 865-6300.

**"WHY THE FIG LEAF? *God, Sex and Sensibility - A Theology of the Body Conference for our Times*"** ~

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm at Madonna University in Livonia. For more information or to register, please contact David Grobbel at (313) 237-5894 or by email at [Grobbel.David@aod.org](mailto:Grobbel.David@aod.org).

**TRANSFIGURATION~OLHC ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL** ~ on Sunday, April 3rd starting at 11:30 am in the Gym. Join us for music & dancing, a delicious, homemade full-course dinner, homemade soups including Czarnina, booths, raffles, fast foods, the Wawel Dancers and MUCH more! Guarded parking. A fun time to be had by all! For info call (313) 892-1310.

**ST. FLORIAN STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL** ~ May 7 & 8, delicious Polish foods, Polkas & Continental Music, Strawberry Bakery, Raffles, Games. Dance & Dine in our church hall or heated tent. Polish Muslims Saturday from 5-9 pm; Walt Cieslak 5-11 pm. Firefighter's Parade & Mass, May 7, 3:30 pm. For details call (313) 770-9349 or go to [www.stflorianparish.org](http://www.stflorianparish.org).

**ST. LOUIS THE KING BOTIQUE & EASTER BAKE SALE** ~ March 27, 12 - 6 pm; March 28, 9 am - 2 pm. The Botique will have jewelry, special gifts and raffle of lovely prizes; the Bake Sale will feature homemade Coffee Cakes, various baked goods and the Kitchen will be open with chicken soup & hot dogs. Sunday features tasty Polish Dinners. Plenty of guarded parking, admission is free. For more information call Patricia Lizewski at (313) 891-1766 or email [StLouistheKing@att.net](mailto:StLouistheKing@att.net).

**1955 FIRST COMMUNION REUNION** ~ If you (or someone you know) made their First Holy Communion on May 15, 1955 at Queen of Apostles, Hamtramck; you're invited to celebrate with the 2011 First Holy Communicants on that very same day, May 15th, at 12 Noon Mass. Please contact Alfreda (Kowalski) Kudla at (313) 891-5942 for further information.

**LENTEN ACTIVITIES** ~ Numerous Lenten resources are available on the Archdiocese website. These include Archbishop Vigneron's Lenten message, an event calendar, prayers, articles, and more. It all can be found at [www.aodonline.org/lent](http://www.aodonline.org/lent).

**EVANGELIZATION SERIES** ~ "*Where the Rubber Meets the Road*" *Practical Strategies for Everyday Evangelization* (now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year!) will be focusing on "hands-on learning" for Evangelization. There'll be Role Playing; Discussions on Concrete Situations & Family Evangelization. Each "stand-alone" presentation is held at Sacred Heart. For more information call (313) 237-5832. A freewill donation is requested to cover costs. Upcoming 2011 dates: April 16th and May 7th.

**SPRING CARD & BUNCO SOCIAL** ~ Join the Daughters of Isabella, Mystical Rose Circle #736 on Wednesday, April 27th, 12 Noon at Queen of Apostles' Fr. Blaszczyk Hall. Raffle, Share the Wealth, Door & Table prizes. Lunch will be served. Just \$7 admission, guarded parking. For details or to reserve a seat, call Veronica at (313) 972-1435 or Mary at (313) 873-0271.

**SOUP KITCHEN HELP APPEAL** ~ All Saints Soup Kitchen is adding Thursday to their meal schedule. There's groups to supply, prepare & serve the food on the 3rd and 4th Thursdays of each month; they're hoping to find additional parishes or groups, such as K of C groups, who would be willing to bring food, prepare and serve it on the 1st, 2nd & 5th Thursdays of the month. Groups are welcome to take as few days (once a year) or as many (once a month) as they wish. The Soup Kitchen is open from 11 am - 12:30 pm. Those cooking the meal would need to be there from 8 am until 1 pm. Those serving the meal arrive at 10 am. If you have a group of people who would like to make a real difference in the lives of the less fortunate, here's your chance! Contact Denise Balogh, Outreach Director at (313) 841-1428 ext. 5 for more information.

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