

# The Good News

Summer 2004

Christ The  
King Church

200 Windsor Ave.  
Haddonfield, New Jersey

## Father Ed Maher: A Day In The Priestly Life

by Bob Tulini

Father Edward J. Maher will become pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Barrington on June 14, after three years as associate pastor at Christ the King.

"I'm impressed with what the people are doing at Christ the King," Father Ed said. "You see people doing so many different things in the parish. The pastors set the tone, and the people respond. That's good to see."

Since 2001, a day in the life of Father Ed has been a day in the life of Christ the King Parish.

A regular weekday for Father Ed has included any number of these responsibilities: celebrating morning and funeral Masses, visiting parishioners in nursing homes and hospitals, stopping at religious education classes at school, attending appointments and staff and committee meetings, training altar servers, serving on the diocesan funeral and continuing education for priests committees, participating in the Haddonfield Ministerium, preparing homilies, going to school games and making Holy Hour. A regular weekend day has included celebrating Masses, presiding at weddings, baptizing babies, conducting Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sessions, attending church activities and greeting hundreds of congregants.

It's all been worth it, said the 53-year-old Philadelphia native.

"No question about that," he said.

"You're involved with that which is most important, doing God's work and helping people."

Monsignor Joseph Pokusa called Father Ed's value to the life of the parish "incalculable," describing him as "always available to the people, sensible, willing, and compassionate."

Father Ed's last day at Christ the King will be June 13.

"I hope to bring the people at St. Francis de Sales a deeper understanding of God's love for them," Father Ed said. "My faith in Jesus Christ is the main thing I have to offer," in addition to his studies, prayer life, learning from the nine pastors with whom he's served and 23 years experience in parish life.

Father Ed, whose two brothers are teachers and whose sister is a human resources worker, first thought about becoming a priest while studying at St. Joseph's Junior College in Florida. He continued to ponder over the vocation as he went on to LaSalle University. He decided to become a priest after graduating.

He attended St. Mary's Seminary in Kentucky, then Immaculate Conception Seminary in Mahwa, New Jersey. He was ordained in 1981.

He has also been an associate pastor at St. John's in Collingswood, Sacred Heart in Vineland, St. James in Ventnor, Most Holy Redeemer in Westville Grove and St. Vincent de Paul in Mays Landing.

"The things I like the best are celebrating Mass and preaching," Father Ed said. "The Mass is the



Christ the King's Associate Pastor, Fr. Edward J. Maher is named Pastor of St. Francis de Sales of Barrington.

Farewell receptions  
for Father Ed were  
held after the 9 and  
11 a.m. Masses on  
June 13 in the lower  
level of the church.

greatest prayer we have. We're celebrating Jesus' resurrection and our hope for eternal life. Preaching is an important ministry because it's the way you reach the most people."

What he says he likes least are long meetings. "Meetings are necessary to build up the kingdom of God, but not long meetings," he said.

During his time off, Father Ed follows college basketball and takes in a few professional games. He enjoys fishing at the shore. He said his biggest catch was a 12-pound bluefish. 9

## The St. Vincent DePaul Society The Face of Charity

By Peter Gilmartin

Have you ever found yourself in church or speaking with a fellow parishioner and hear about the St. Vincent de Paul Society? You probably nodded your head and said, "Uh-huh, ..." but do you really have an idea of what the Society is? Despite its long history and good deeds, it remains one of those organizations whose name sounds familiar, yet you're never exactly sure about what they do.

The Society is a volunteer organization that offers assistance on a person-to-person basis for a multitude of difficulties we face. Its services range from providing and delivering food to the needy and care for the elderly to help with pharmaceutical needs and providing disaster relief and services. A simple message on its Web site defines its mission: "An essential precept of the Society's work is to provide help while conscientiously maintaining the confidentiality and dignity of those who are served."

But it is the work of the 20 volunteers right here at Christ The King that make the Society a part of our Parish's ministry. As a lay organization, not every parish has a Society affiliation. Fr. Rocco began the CTK chapter in 1996 and continues working with the Society at his new parish, St. Jude's. After Fr. Rocco transferred, several committee members retired, but parishioner Don Beck remained committed to the mission and recruited enough dedicated volunteers to keep the Society a part of our parish life.

In general, our Society tries to help those in our community who may need a bridge to help them overcome some difficulty. This bridge could be

financial or, if more ongoing, volunteers assist in finding a more permanent help or counseling. At CTK, the Society collects nonperishable foods at the church each third Sunday of the month. (You can help by leaving your bags of food in the vestibule of the church.) Additionally, our Society provides money to Sacred Heart parish in Camden where they provide financial assistance to those in need. With the assistance of the CTK student council, food is collected and delivered to the Cathedral Kitchen.

The Society receives its funding almost solely via the poor box in the church and the Holy Thursday collection. Since volunteers consist of the entire staff, virtually every penny collected passes along to charitable causes.

Parishioner Maura Peach is the president of CTK's St. Vincent de Paul Society. While it doesn't have a focused fund-raiser at the moment, they are often ready

to come to someone's aid when the situation arises. When the society learned of the tremendous loss of homes due to flooding in West Virginia, the CTK family donated two truckloads of blankets and household goods through the Society, which made the long trip to deliver the supplies. When asked about our parishioners, Mrs. Peach said, "Everyone has been extremely generous. [We have] a great, generous parish with lots of people that have come through when we need them." And, while the Society feels it has sufficient volunteers, it is always ready to accept financial donations and new volunteers.

To contact the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Christ the King Parish, call the Parish office at 856-429-1600. Visit <http://www.svdpusa.org>



Parishioner Maura Peach is the president of CTK's St. Vincent de Paul Society.

## Your Faith: When Small Is Better Small Church Communities

by Maureen Packer



CTK parish member and Small Church Community participant David B. McGuigan.

"What do I really believe? How does my religion affect my everyday life? How does what I hear Sunday relate to my daily life with my family?" These are the questions parishioners reflect

upon at any of the more than 18 Small Church Community groups taking place here at Christ The King Parish, says parish member and group participant David B. McGuigan. "Members share their faith experiences. We don't comment on others' opinions, we share our own trials and tribulations and how they affect our faith experience."

"Small Church Communities is a movement where individuals get together to connect their faith with their everyday life," David says. "Too often, we practice compartmentalized religion. We go to church on Sunday and live our life the rest of the week. Small Church Communities help us to meld the two together. There's openness in the groups," says David. "You don't feel alone in your spiritual experience. It's a kind of reinforcement for our faith. You share your strengths, hopes and weaknesses." Each meeting starts with a scriptural passage, which participants use as a starting point for sharing. "We have unique faith experiences," says David, "but we also have similar life experiences that affect how we incorporate our faith in our life."

"Group members don't judge you or use Canon Law to determine whether something you believe in is

right or wrong. It's not that type of sharing," David stresses. The group weaves together religious beliefs and pressures of daily life with family and work to strengthen the faith journey of the members.

There seems to be a group for everyone, including groups for dads, mothers (with babysitting), couples, men and women. Parish members are also welcome to start their own group. The groups are usually about six to 15 people with a group member, who guides the discussion, and they meet once or twice a month, and others meet every week. Approximately 180-200 people participate in the groups. The groups, which can range from a handful to more than a dozen, meet anywhere from members' homes to rooms in the Parish Center. This is a great channel for newcomers to become connected with the parish. If you would like to participate in Small Church Communities, contact coordinator, Arlene Boerum at (856) 546-8056. ☺

### St Vincent De Paul Quick Facts:

Blessed Frederic Ozanam founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Paris in 1833 to assist the poor.

"Its original name was the "Conference of Charity." It shortly changed by taking the name of its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

"It is comprised entirely of Catholic lay people (more than 750,000 worldwide, with 59,000 in the United States).

"Their motto is: "No work of charity is foreign to the Society. Need, not creed, determines who is helped and how." ☺

## A Pillar of Support During Grief by Christine L. Kooistra

She's quick to tell you she's not a trained grief counselor. But when Jean Robertson meets with parishioners who have recently lost a loved one, she always tries to be as open and understanding and compassionate as she can be. Jean is the founder of the Bereavement Committee at Christ the King Church. Although more of a ministry than a committee, the six-member group guides the bereaved through the process of planning an appropriate Mass for their departed family member.

"The Holy Spirit is right there to help us out," Jean says. At a time of heartache and distress, the Bereavement Committee is poised to take parishioners through a process that may at this time seem complex and daunting. From the moment Jean or a committee member learns of a death through Elaine Celenza, the church secretary, they are on the phone with family members to begin the process of designing an inspiring, thought-provoking tribute to the deceased person.

In addition to selecting one reading each from the Old and New Testaments and five songs or hymns for the Mass, family members are also invited to share a bit of personal information about their loved one to be passed along to the priest who is conducting the funeral. Survivors with the help of a committee member also make intercession choices. Then they compile all of the information and place it in the Celebrant's Book, which the priest brings to the altar for the Mass.

The Bereavement Committee's job doesn't end once the Mass is over. Members follow up with a phone call or card about a month later. "In November, we have a Mass for all the deceased of the past year, and we invite the families to participate in that



Jean Robertson the founder of the Bereavement Committee at Christ the King Church.

Mass, with hospitality afterwards to get everybody together again," Jean explains.

The committee formed at Christ the King in 1998. Before that, a priest carried out most of its duties. Jean herself organized the Bereavement Committee following an experience of her own. "A friend of mine's mother died, and they had all these beautiful readings, and the songs were just lovely at her Funeral Mass, and I said afterwards to her, 'How did you know what to pick?' And she said that the church had a bereavement ministry," Jean explains. Afterwards, she took the idea to Msgr. Thomas Morgan, who let her run with it.

The committee, which meets annually, boasts six members - a number that Robertson anticipates will grow in the future. Committee members include Mary Gramigna, Pat Herdelin, Pat Keegan, Pat Lennon, Esther Tillinghast and Marc Maiatico. Anyone interested in becoming a member can contact Jean at (856) 427-9052 directly or speak with a priest. ☺

### Clarification

The Marriage Enrichment program mentioned in our previous newsletter is held six to seven times each year in the Camden diocese. For more information, call 800-622-9963 or go to [www.mesj.net](http://www.mesj.net).

# Parish Singles! Mark Your Calendar 9/10/04

by Msgr. Joseph W. Pokusa

Are you a single person who belongs to Christ the King Parish? For some of you being single is a temporary situation. For others, it is a permanent vocation. Some are newly single through divorce, separation or death of a spouse.

Perhaps you are already involved with our parish. Maybe you just come occasionally for Sunday Mass. You may be new in town, recently graduated from college or have lived in Haddonfield, Westmont or Cherry Hill all of your life. All of you, however, are most welcome at Christ the King.

Once in a while, we want an opportunity for just our parish singles to get together to meet each other. We will plan an evening gathering for 7:30 p.m., Friday, September 10th. It will truly be a social. If the weather allows, the evening will be open-air on the plaza next to the church. If it

rains, we will move inside to the Lower Level hall. The evening will not be a recruitment period, a prayer service or an adult education program. It will just be a chance to enjoy each other's company. We can, indeed, share God's blessings with one another in many ways!

You might be able to let us know areas your parish can be of better service to you. The Lord blesses each of us in our own particular ways. We hope this church community is a place of blessing for you. We believe that God has a way you, too, can find wonderful opportunities for sharing, socializing and prayer among other parishioners of this community.

If you would like to help plan this gathering for Sept 10th, drop me a note, give me a call or stop me after Mass. Your suggestions are most welcome.



Monsignor Joseph W. Pokusa extends an invitation to all single parish members of Christ The King for a meet and greet on the church plaza.

See you, with God's help, at the church plaza on Friday, the 10th of September 2004. ☺

**Christ The King Church  
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