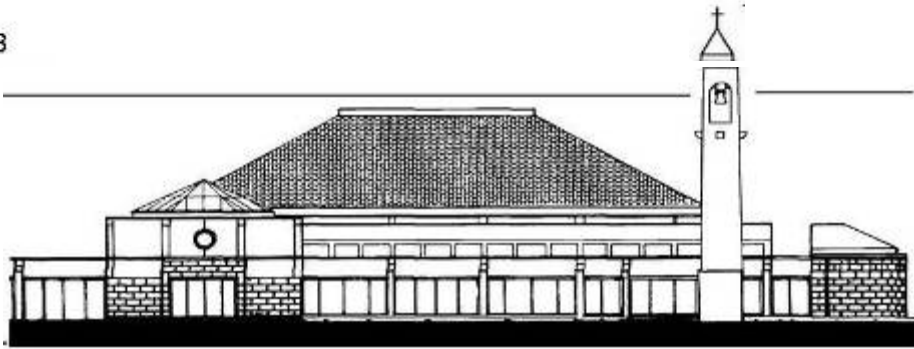


Church of St. Joseph
1154 Seminole Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118

LINK



VOL XVI No. 7
July 2010

Sudanese Bishop and Singers Visit St. Joseph's



On June 20, Bishop Macram Max Gassis celebrated the 11 a.m. Mass. Bishop Gassis is from the Diocese of El Obeid in Sudan. He is a friend of Fr. Creagan and was in town to visit with family and friends. The people of the bishop's diocese have suffered greatly for their faith. There is a website to learn more at www.bishopgassis.org. A Sudanese choir also provided some music for the Mass.



Msgr. Lavin Blesses Statue of St. John Vianney



On June 10, Msgr. James Lavin attended the Council of Catholic Women Meeting to bless the statue of St. John Vianney. The statue was given as a gift to the parish and is in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. It was significant for Msgr. Lavin to bless the statue, given a distant connection he has with the saint.

St. John Vianney is the patron saint for Parish Priests. He lived in Ars

France in the mid 19th century. A young boy named Joseph Guillot was in Ars with his mother. When the skinny saint emerged from the confessional, the young boy shouted "Mommy, why don't they feed their priest?" The saint was amused at the comment and went to bless the boy. That young boy went on to become a missionary to Minnesota and died in 1951. When Msgr. Lavin was a young priest he took care of that elderly priest who had once encountered the great saint.

St. Joseph's Welcome Summer Seminarians

Once again, St. Joseph is host to seminarians over the summer months. Meet the seminarians:

Joe Kuharski

I am a parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo parish in Northeast Minneapolis. I have just graduated from St. John Vianney Seminary and the University of St. Thomas after spending the last four years there, which was a tremendous time of growth for me. I graduated with degrees in Philosophy and Business Management, and I am now being sent to the North American College in Rome for the next four years to study Theology at the Major seminary. I depart for Rome mid-July. Please pray for me!



Nick Vasko

I am the oldest of four children and grew up in North Saint Paul at St. Peter's Parish. I attended Hill-Murray High School and then went on to study technology education at Bemidji State University for three years before joining the seminary in the fall of 2008. This coming year I will be a senior at St. John Vianney college seminary, which is located on the north campus of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. After completing this coming year with a bachelors degree in philosophy, I will then attend St. Paul Seminary for an additional four years before I am ordained to the priesthood. In my free time I enjoy playing sports, woodworking, hunting, fishing and camping. This past school year, I helped out with the senior high youth group and winter retreat. This is my second summer at St. Joseph's and I will be continuing to help out around the parish, while studying Latin and taking a few trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. I look forward to meeting some new people and catching up with those I have already met. Please know of my continual prayers for everyone and their families.

Deacon Cole Kracke

Greetings. It has been a great joy and pleasure for me to meet so many parishioners over the last week. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the community. I grew up in Farmington and Burnsville, graduating from Burnsville High School in 1992. I entered the Navy after high school, serving as a cryptologist while stationed in Spain, California, Virginia, Washington and Mississippi. After selection for a commissioning program, I completed my degree at Old Dominion University in Norfolk Virginia graduating in 2003. After commissioning as a Surface Warfare Officer, I served as the CIC Officer onboard a brand

new guided missile destroyer stationed in Norfolk. I was medically discharged three years later and decided to follow my vocation to the priesthood. I entered seminary in Baltimore, studying for the diocese of Richmond. After two years there, I felt the Holy Spirit was calling me back home to Minnesota. I entered Saint Paul Seminary two years ago and was ordained as a Deacon this past May. My teaching parish is Annunciation in Minneapolis and my home parish is All Saints in Lakeville. I am looking forward to spending my summer at the parish in preparation for ordination to the priesthood next May. Some of my duties will include preaching at Mass, sacramental preparation, baptisms, home visits and working with the summer programs. I am especially looking forward to the youth group visit to the Steubenville conference in Atlanta. I wish you all a great summer and look forward to personally meeting you all. St. Joseph, pray for us!

Choose Your Wolf

An old Grandfather, whose grandson came to him with anger at a schoolmate who had done him an injustice, said, "Let me tell you a story. I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times."

He continued, "It is as if there are two wolves inside me; one is good and does no harm. But the other wolf, ah! He is full of anger. The slightest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. It is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, for both of them try to dominate my spirit."

The boy looked intently into his Grandfather's eyes and asked, "Which one wins, Grandfather?" The Grandfather solemnly said, "The one I feed." (author unknown)

The Grandfather's wisdom beautifully parallels the words of our Lord. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

How do you feed your spirit to refuse the gravitational pull of a person whose behavior warrants vengeance? One thought – it is difficult to hate someone after you have prayed for them. Every time you pray for your "enemy," your hatred subsides until gradually the hatred is dissipated. Is there someone you need to pray for this day?

Featured Saint: St. Maria Goretti

Feastday: July 6

Patron of youth, young women, purity, and victims of rape

b: 1890 d: 1902

Born in Corinaldo, Ancona, Italy, on October 16 1890; her farmworker father moved his family to Ferrier di Conca, near Anzio. Her father died of malaria and her mother had to struggle to feed her children.



In 1902, an 18-year-old neighbor, Alexander, grabbed her from her steps and tried to rape her. When Maria said that she would rather die than submit, Alexander began stabbing her with a knife. As she lay in the hospital, she forgave Alexander before she died. Her death didn't end her forgiveness, however.

Alexander was captured and sentenced to 30 years. He was unrepentant until he had a dream that he was in a garden. Maria was there and gave him flowers. When he woke, he was a changed man, repenting of his crime and living a reformed life. When he was released after 27 years, he went directly to Maria's mother to beg her forgiveness, which she gave. "If my daughter can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness?" she said.

When Maria was declared a saint in 1950, Alexander was there in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1950 for her purity as model for youth. She is called a martyr because she fought against Alexander's attempts at sexual assault. However, the most important aspect of her story is her forgiveness of her attacker -- her concern for her enemy extending even beyond death. Her feast day is July 6. St. Maria Goretti is the patroness of youth and for the victims of rape.