

Pope John Post

PARISH MISSION AT POPE JOHN XXIII

By Monsignor A. Anthony Frecker

Many parishes over the years have held a parish mission at one time or another; some parishes have a parish mission on an annual basis. A parish mission is a parish-wide event which provides an opportunity for the entire parish to reflect together on subjects pertinent to the lives of people of all ages. Often these have been very blessed experiences for parishes as they take time to create an environment for greater spiritual growth. Usually a visiting priest or a team including a religious and/or layperson is invited to come into the parish to present a program that lasts four or five consecutive nights. The evening program usually includes scripture readings, preaching, prayer, and some time for refreshments and sharing. The enduring popularity of the parish mission as a means of spiritual growth and renewal is a testimony to its effectiveness in the lives of the parishioners who attend.

This is good news for our parish as well. We are very happy and excited to be having a parish mission here at Pope John XXIII this fall. As you know, our parish is launching a three-year spiritual renewal process called RENEW. The RENEW process consists of a six-week period in the fall and again in the spring (in the weeks of Lent) during which time the parish tries to involve all

parishioners in a process of spiritual renewal. Devotional materials are mailed to each home. The Sunday Masses and homilies, as well as a special bulletin insert, will help us reflect on the themes of spiritual renewal. Parishioners will be invited to join a Small Christian Community



to study, pray, and share with their fellow parishioners. There will be a special attempt to reach out to Young Adults as well as a Youth Ministry component and a P. S. R. component. RENEW truly tries to foster spiritual growth and renewal in the entire parish community by reaching out to every parishioner in one way or another. To launch this three-year RENEW process, we are beginning with a four-evening parish mission here at Pope John XXIII from Sunday September 10th through Wednesday September 13th. The mission presentations will begin at 7:30 each evening in the worship space, and at 8:30 we will move to the social hall for food and fun. Child care will be provided.

One of the greatest differences between our parish mission and ones you may have attended at other

parishes in the past, is that we will not be inviting an "out of town expert" to come in to do the mission. The RENEW leadership group in our own parish, under the direction of RENEW International Inc., will be responsible for the mission, and all the talks will be given by your fellow parishioners. It is truly a powerful experience to hear the testimony of fellow parishioners as they help us reflect on the topics for the night by sharing their personal witness.

The themes for the individual nights of the mission are as follows:

- Sunday = Search for Meaning and Rediscovering God;
- Monday = In Search of Meaningful Relationships and Reconciling Our Differences;
- Tuesday = Strengthening Family Life – Supportive Relationships and Making a Difference in the Lives of Tomorrow's Children;
- Wednesday = Community for the 21st Century – Building a New World.

As pastor of Pope John XXIII, I personally invite you to join me and your fellow parishioners for this most significant event in our parish community.

RENEW MISSION

Sept. 10th through the 13th.

Mark The Dates On Your Calendar Now!!!

PARISH PRAYER LINE

By Anne Brunney

There is a special ministry at Pope John XXIII. It's the Parish Prayer Line. I call it special because it's a prayer line for each and every member, young or old, who wants or needs prayers. It's caring parishioners wanting to pray for other members, their families and friends.

The Prayer Line was started approximately four years ago, when Jennifer Ilich and I approached the Spiritual Development (now the Faith Formation Commission) about starting a simple prayer group in our parish. We began with an e-mail prayer line and hooked up with Groveport St. Mary's, since many of our members were former St. Mary's parishioners. We also had a phone prayer line. As our parish and prayer line grew, we made several changes. First, we started our own parish e-mail. Suggestions were made to change the phone line to mailing out prayer requests once a week.

The best part of the Prayer Line is the positive response we receive. We already know how powerful prayer is, but to see prayer in action is inspiring. Many have told me how the Prayer Line has helped them to

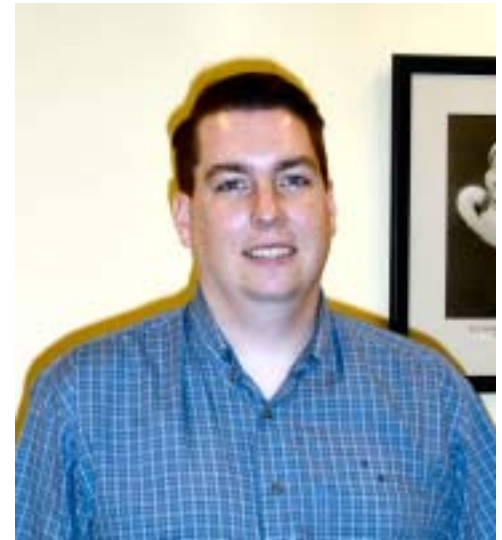


accept God's will. Many have felt the healing of prayer. There are many reasons for the requests, some of which are, health, children, employment, and strength during difficult times. The list is long and we all seem to have prayer needs at different times of our lives. I just love what a few of our "pray-ers" have told me how they do their daily praying. One said she "hangs it on her car dash and prays all the way to work." Much safer than talking on the cell phone! Another told of putting the list on the kitchen table and after dinner the entire family prays for the list. Wow! "Just anywhere you could spend ten minutes, you could place your list," says another "pray-er."

What greater gift could we give, than the free gift of caring enough to pray for each other? Just the thought that someone cares for our needs to pray to the Lord, God for us is awesome. It's not an exclusive club and anyone can be a part of this Ministry. Feel called?



ANONYMOUS REPORTER INTERVIEWS PATRICK MURPHY



Reporter: Hi Patrick. Thank you for making time for this interview. It is delightful to interview you. I often see you and your wife and daughter at Mass. We want to know more about you—that is, in addition to your being on Pastoral Council and your having the proverbial Irish name. We can start anywhere you want.

Patrick: I feel rather honored being interviewed. I can't remember having this experience before.

Reporter: We'll just be visiting and talking as if we were neighbors, and I promise you, it will be painless. So, when did you come to Pope John XXIII?

Patrick: We came to the parish with the second wave of parishioners. We were not in the gym. For us, Pope John XXIII is so different from our other parish. This parish is so welcoming and we felt like we belonged right away. We know the church is not a building, but we are so glad to be members 'on the ground floor' so to speak. We are so attached to Pope John XXIII, more than we ever have been to any other parish. Regina made my wife and me feel so included. Each time we'd see her, she'd remember our names. We were very impressed with her.

Reporter: All of us agree with you in that regard. Everybody likes Regina. She has a real knack with people, and gives every one her undivided attention. Her husband, (whom we affectionately call Slash) is our Sacristan and he, too, has a gentle way with people. Both of them are assets to our parish. Tell us about your involvement in our parish and our community, and how that came about.

Patrick: In our parish, I am on Pastoral Council and I was a member of the Campus Review Committee. The Campus Review Committee has done its work and we no longer meet. In Canal Winchester, I am VP of the Canal Winchester Historical Society. As a family man, I watch that I don't get involved in too many outside activities. What got me interested or involved in our parish is that we attended the Ministry Fair and we met many other parishioners, and saw all the ways we could become involved. Like so many others, I thought I didn't have time for church work, and I was afraid of any long time commitment, but when you do it, somehow the time for church works out. And being involved in the parish adds so much to our lives.

Reporter: Very impressive. It is not so common for a young person to be interested or involved in the local Historical Society. Are you a history buff?

Patrick: I suppose so. I've always liked history. When I was a kid growing up in Cleveland, my father, who worked in the steel mills, would always listen to PBS on the radio and so many of their shows were about history. I guess that is how I got interested in history. When I got older and my family got cable, I started watching the History Channel and the Discovery Channel and I continued this while away at college.

Reporter: Tell us something about your family.

Patrick: My wife is Andrea and our daughter is Maureen and we are expecting another baby this fall. We like to be surprised so we don't want to know the sex of the baby ahead of delivery. Andrea will be teaching 3rd grade this year at Glendenning Elementary in Groveport.

Reporter: Do you and Andrea agree that a teaching career works well for a young family? With Andrea having the summers off, she can spend more time with Maureen and the new baby, and this time will be especially important when the kids are school age.

Patrick: Yes, we agree. It's so nice and even a little funny when I come home from work in the summer months because Andrea greets me with 'how was your day?' and it reminds me of those old TV programs from the 1950s. I begin to feel like Ward Cleaver. It's really nice and comforting. Now during the school year, Andrea still gets home before I do, but she doesn't greet me quite the same. I can tell by her face what kind of day she has had. So, I don't have to ask. She loves teaching.

Reporter: What kind of work do you do?

Patrick: I am a mechanical engineer. I work at Horton Emergency Vehicle where they build ambulances and emergency vehicles. They are in Grove City and I have been with them about two years. We start with the basic skeleton of the vehicle and then we build up and on—all the specialized accessories and trim. I do the design.

Reporter: Do you use auto cad a lot? And do you like the work?

Patrick: Yes. I like the product. And we do use computers a lot. It's necessary today.

Reporter: How about you and Andrea? How long are you married? Anything else you want to share about the two of you?

Patrick: (Andrea has come into the room.) Andrea and I met in college; we both went to Wright State.

Reporter: Before you finish this question, tell me, was it love at first sight?

Patrick: No, it wasn't love at first sight. We were friends and that is the basis of our relationship. We dated for about two months and then it was summer, so we were apart for three months. When we got back to school, I told Andrea 'it is much better with you than without you.' (I look over at Andrea, who is nodding while she is sitting with her back to us.) It is a mutual feeling. (Andrea continues to nod affirmatively.) I was raised to think that the man is to be in charge, the head of the household. It's not the way we live our lives or organize our family. But it is still way back in my mind, like a kind of an emergency logic. We see ourselves as a partnership and a team. (Andrea agrees.) We had classes together at Wright State and we studied together, and that's how we became friends. Of the two of us, Andrea is the one more inclined to speak up, defend a position, ask the tough questions, etc. I am more laid back, more of a go-with-the-flow kind of guy. Not so much that way with Andrea.

Reporter: What better basis for a marriage than friendship! I think you two have that down pat. It adds so much to our church community to have active young families. Were you two fairly constant in your church going as young adults, as college students? I'm trying to tactfully ask if you two were always so good about attending Sunday Mass.



Pat with his Wife Andrea and Daughter Maureen

Patrick: Yes, pretty much so. Do you agree Andrea? (Andrea agrees.) Andrea and I would go to Mass, usually Sunday evening Mass, while at Wright State. I just always knew I needed that—the regular attendance at Mass. Andrea would always go with me, even though she was not Catholic at the time.

Reporter: I just know there is a story here. Can you give me a thumbnail sketch of how this happened?

Patrick: I never asked Andrea to convert. It was always her idea. What triggered Andrea's decision to convert was an incident that occurred during the Mass at my sister's wedding. Andrea was in the

wedding party and could see all the people who went to communion. It just so happened that a lady at the wedding, someone who was no longer Catholic, came up to Communion. The priest and some of my family knew the history of this lady, but there was nothing they could do about it. The woman took Communion and then dipped it in the wine. She dropped the host into the wine goblet and spent some time trying to retrieve it. She was not successful and ended up not taking Communion. Andrea was so angry at how she disrespected Communion; she realized how much the Eucharist meant to her and knew it was meant for people who believe it is the Body

and Blood of Christ. From that incident, Andrea started taking instructions and was received into the church.

Andrea: My family is Methodist and they were very accepting of my decision to convert and there were no misunderstandings. They didn't attend the Communion and Confirmation because they felt they didn't understand the process. But Patrick's family they had a big First Communion/Confirmation party for me just as they always do with every member of the family. It was wonderful and so much fun.

Reporter: What a wonderful story!! We have a good number of converts in our parish and one of these days this Reporter is going to ask Monsignor if we can do a series of articles on our converts. I think it would be inspiring. What I have always heard is that a convert makes the best Catholic. (Here Patrick nods affirmatively.) We could spend a couple more hours just talking and I would enjoy it, but I don't want to take up too much of your time. Just a couple more questions, Patrick. Do you have a Walter Mitty fantasy?

Patrick: Mine is not so much a fantasy. I hope to make mine a reality some day, maybe when I retire. What I always wanted to do is take an RV/motor home and travel. A gypsy in an RV. I like to figure out simple mysteries, so I'd like to travel, investigate, and maybe solve a mystery; all the while we are traveling. Until then, I like to think about trips Andrea and I can take when we retire, places I'd like to go. I am a huge history nut and like genealogy. I did some work on our genealogy while at Wright State.

Reporter: Did you find out some interesting things about your families?

Patrick: Yes, but these facts are still open-ended and there's more to do. I

know just a few things. I traced my branch of the Murphy family to a peninsula in County Mayo, called the Mullet.

Reporter: That's great fun when you uncover some facts such as that. We're coming down to the last few questions, Patrick. Do you have a soapbox? Something you know for sure?

Patrick: Not so much a soapbox. I'm pretty laid back, and there are so many things I'm 'goofy' about. But something that really annoys me? I have a few of those. (Here we all chuckle.) Something that really gets to me is when people fall for obvious untruths. A good example of this is how many people said the *The Da Vinci Code* shook their faith when it clearly states it is a novel. I don't understand this.

Reporter: One last question, Patrick. Is there something most people may not know about you that you want to share?

Patrick: (There's some hesitation here, and I rush in to say he needn't say anything.) There is something about me most people don't know. It is not something I am ashamed of, at least not now. (Here he looks at Andrea who gives him an encouraging nod.) I have ADD. What made this so difficult for me to cope with is I was not diagnosed until I was a sophomore in high school. My mom worked very hard to get me diagnosed and get the help I needed to be successful. She had confidence in me and knew that I was capable of doing so much more, and that I could go to college and get a degree. Without her help, I would not be where I am today. But ADD was something I had to learn to deal with. You can imagine how tough it was in grade school! Because of this, I had to find other ways to do things to compensate for this. I have kept this to myself and frankly, never use it as an excuse. Throughout all

of this, I learned to see things from different perspectives (because this was how I learned to compensate) which I think explains why I am laid back and don't jump on a soapbox. I can see several sides to every position. I see myself as breaking new ground, so to speak, to have ADD and to be engineer. Usually these cancel out one another. But working through this gave me confidence. My grades in college were so much better than elementary and high school. What I could hear, especially, I would retain. It was the reading that was difficult. When I was in college and studying history, so much of what was written in the texts I already knew because I had heard it so many times on PBS, or the Discovery Channel or the History Channel. That was really cool. And saved me some study time.

Andrea: And he frequently got better grades than I did on exams and I studied!

Reporter: You are an exception! That is truly an unusual combination—an engineer with ADD. You have much to commend yourself and your mom. Especially for the perseverance. And the self-discipline. And maybe especially the ability to see different sides to every problem.

Patrick: I had to go through this to be who I am today. And the final irony, after all the headaches teachers gave me, I end up married to one. (Here we all laugh.)

Reporter: You are such a delightful family, and I have so enjoyed my visit with you. I feel as though I am visiting friends. We, your fellow parishioners, and I, are so blessed to have you in our parish community. We appreciate your service and your spirit. Please let me know when the baby arrives. And after swapping more stories, the Reporter and Patrick conclude the interview.

ONE DEAD, ONE WOUNDED



**By: Theresa Prinzler
(Respect Life Committee)**

Several years ago, I attended a fundraising dinner for a local organization that provides post-abortion healing and support to women and men who have experienced abortion. At that dinner, a woman, who I think was in her mid to late 30s, shared her story about her abortion (which occurred some 15 years earlier) and the years following which eventually lead her to seek healing and support. One comment she made that has stuck with me over the years was about bumper stickers. She said that for years after having an abortion she saw so many pro-life bumper stickers that were like a "slap in the face" reminding her of the difficult choice she had made and that she felt judged and condemned. Until one day she saw a bumper sticker that read, "Abortion: One Dead, One Wounded". She said for the first time she felt as though someone out there understood that she was hurting. And she eventually found help that lead her through a healing and reconciliation process.

Another thought that has stuck with me is what a friend of mine once told me, and I'm sorry I can't remember whom she was quoting, but she said, "A woman chooses to have an abortion much like a mouse chooses to chew its foot off to free itself from a trap."

With these thoughts in mind, I have reflected over the years on the women who have experienced abortion and might be hurting and I pray for those who suffer in silence, feeling like no one understands and that there is nowhere for them to turn for help. The good news is that growing numbers of people do

understand, and there are groups and organizations that exist to offer support and healing from the effects of abortion. As a matter of fact, the emotional, psychological and spiritual effects many women (and men) suffer after an abortion are now referred to as Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS).

Although not yet “officially” accepted by the American Psychiatric Association or the American Psychological Association (largely due to the controversy over the legalization of abortion debate), evidence of the traumatic nature of abortion continues to accumulate and more and more therapists are seeking and receiving training in the treatment of this “non-existent” disorder. And the number of women and men receiving counseling for post-abortion trauma or grief is increasing.¹

I think it’s important to note that statistics show that since 1973 more than 42 million legal abortions have been reported in the U.S.² and at current rates more than one in three (35%) American women will have had an abortion by age 45,³ and forty-three percent of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 27% as Catholic.⁴

This means there is a good chance we all know someone who has had an abortion, and they may be suffering in silence and may be in need of help.

We now know, for example, that women hurt by abortion may have some or many of the following symptoms:

- Low self-esteem
- Grief (mild to profound)
- Depression (sometimes to the point of suicidal thoughts and attempts)

- A sense of alienation from family and friends
- A feeling of being 'numb,' not able to feel joy from activities that used to be pleasurable
- Isolating self from others to avoid discussing the abortion experience with them
- Guilt and shame
- Difficulty concentrating
- Anger toward self, or the child's father, or others involved in the abortion decision
- Sleep disorders
- Abortion-related nightmares, flashbacks or even sounds of a baby crying
- Alcohol and drug problems, to dull the sorrow
- Desire for a 'replacement' baby
- Anniversary reactions of grief or depression on the date of the abortion or the baby's expected due date
- Problems bonding with her other children (being over-protective but emotionally distant)
- Fear that God will punish her, or is punishing her

Some, especially young girls, experience symptoms soon after the abortion. Counselors tell us, however, that it is more common for the symptoms to occur over the course of five to twelve years after the abortion before a woman seeks help.⁵ [I should also note that some women do not experience these symptoms and function normally following an abortion.]

Many women, who have walked a path of grief and hopelessness after abortion, usually alone, eventually begin to understand that they have a deep spiritual wound. But sadly, they also are likely to believe that they have committed 'the unforgivable sin' and fear God's anger. They often have many questions, the answers to which are indispensable to beginning

the healing journey. Can God ever forgive me? Can my child? Can I ever forgive myself? Will the Church let me stay when I confess this sin? Will this horrible pain ever go away? Is healing possible? The answer to all these questions is, of course, YES! ⁶

Pope John Paul II understood this when he offered these special words to women who have had abortions:

The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and ... does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord.

With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life. Through your commitment to life, whether by accepting the birth of other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life."

*Pope John Paul II,
The Gospel of Life, sec. 99 (1995)*

So if you have experienced abortion, or you know someone who has, and need support and healing, please consider reaching out to one of the resources listed below. These organizations are loving, compassionate, and non-judgmental; and they are safe and completely confidential.

Local Resources for Support and Healing follow:

- **Bethesda Healing Ministry**
P.O. Box 203, Dublin, OH 43085
www.bethesdahealing.org
Contact us at: (614) 718-0277
fkempf@bethesdahealing.org

- **H.E.A.R.T.** (Healing the Effects of Abortion Related Trauma)
Pregnancy Decision Health Centers
665 E. Dublin-Granville Road,
Columbus, OH 43229
24-Hour Hotline: 614-444-4411
www.pdhc.org
www.pregnancyquestions.org

- **Project Rachael**
Diocese of Columbus
Post-Abortion Ministry/ Catholic
Social Services
Contact: Becky
Referral Phone: (614) 221-5891

Internet Resources

- Elliot Institute,
www.afterabortion.org
- Rachel's Vineyard,
www.rachelsvineyard.org
- Project Rachael,
www.hopeafterabortion.com
- CatholicTherapists.com,
<http://www.catholictherapists.com>
- Ohio Right to Life,
<http://www.ohiolife.org>

Notes:

1. Theresa Burke, PhD with David C. Reardon, PhD, "Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion", (Acorn Books, 2002), Appendix A, p. 275.
2. The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States, May 2006,
<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2005/05/18/ab_incidence.pdf>, accessed June 24, 2006.
3. The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), State facts about abortion: Ohio, March 2004,
<<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/sfaa/ohio.html>>, accessed June 24, 2006.
4. The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States, May 2006,
<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induce_d_abortion.html>, accessed June 24, 2006.
5. **Project Rachel**,
www.hopeafterabortion.com, accessed June 24, 2006.
6. Ibid.

RETURNING TO THE FAITH



By Sharon Colburn

My becoming a member of Pope John XXIII Community has been a journey. I am a lifelong Catholic. I come from a union of two strong Irish Catholics. My maternal grandmother was a housekeeper for several priests here in Columbus. Our parents were active in both parishes we belonged to when we were children. My sisters and I went to Catholic schools for 12 years. We were not allowed to consider any college but St. Mary of the Springs (which is now known as Ohio Dominican University). I was allowed to attend Columbus Business University so I could learn skills that would allow me to support my children and myself in case my husband died. It was good advice from my mother!

I went to Mass every Sunday, but only because it was a habit and it was expected of me by my parents. When I was 22 years old I found an organization known as the Catholic Youth Organization. Part of this organization was the Catholic Young Adult group. I became a member of this organization and my faith became very important to me for a number of years because of the priest

who was the director of the organization. The director of this organization was Father Richard Dodd. He was a very charismatic priest and when he spoke about God and how he loved us each in a special way it really touched me in many, many ways. I felt very close to God at that time and made time for him in my daily life. Father Dodd married my husband and me and he stayed very close to our family for a number of years. I firmly believe that Father Dodd touched the lives of many young adults in the 1960s and 1970s and these people are now leaders in our faith. Because of the lessons learned from Father Dodd, I became active in the parishes I attended as the years went by. I enjoyed being involved in the parishes and felt God's presence in my life daily.

But, as time went on and my family grew and multiplied and circumstances changed in my life I didn't feel God was very important to me. My marriage broke up and it was hard to go to Mass at the same parish that my ex-husband attended, so I tried joining another parish. It worked for a while, but I still felt something was missing and I didn't feel any connection to the parish. I only joined that parish so my younger children could receive religious education and receive the sacraments. I made myself be active in the parish, but I didn't feel that God was really in my life. I went on this way for a long time. I did attend Mass at Pope John XXIII several times when the parish started, but I didn't feel a need to join a parish.

Then, last August a friend from my days in the Catholic Young Adult Organization was killed in an automobile accident on Gender Road. It was a terrible shock! Her death really upset me. I went to her funeral. She and her husband had left the Church many years ago and



Sharon with her friend Kathy Staber and her sister Patsy Moore visit after a Sunday Mass.

became active in another church in Lancaster. I went to the funeral home to give my condolences to her husband and sons. I stood in line for over an hour. The line was out to the door of the funeral home and had been that way all that day and the day before. The next day I went to her funeral in Lancaster. The parking lot was full! There were several hundred people at her service – this was in the middle of the week! During the service many people got up and witnessed about my friend’s life. It was awesome! She was involved with the homeless, the elderly, prisoners and many other groups. People from many groups got up and told of her work and the inspiration she had given to everyone she met. My friend had touched many people’s lives in so many ways. It was inspiring to listen to them – I was overwhelmed by their testimony to her faith in God.

After the funeral service and driving to the cemetery, I counted the cars going to the cemetery, there were close to 40 cars! I was feeling overwhelmed with emotion! My friend had truly touched many, many lives.

After the funeral I felt the need to become connected with God again. I decided to try Pope John XXIII Parish again. My sister, Patsy Moore and her husband, Terry, were parishioners and had been from the very start of the parish. I attended Mass the following Sunday and it seemed that God was with me that day. The Mass was beautiful and the people were welcoming – it seemed like someone was guiding me to come home again! I decided that day to join the parish and my life hasn’t been the same since! I have found that friends from high school and a cousin are members of this parish! And best of all, my son, Dennis Colburn, his wife Andrea and their children joined our parish this winter. That has been one of the highlights of belonging to this parish. And, last October Patsy’s and my mother died. We asked Monsignor Frecker if Mom could be buried from Pope John XXIII Parish and he very graciously agreed. It was a beautiful service and I think Mom would have liked it. We had all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at the Mass! The noise from the little ones was a noise

that our Mother really enjoyed. The day of her funeral was a real homecoming for Mom.

People have been very gracious to me. I have felt welcomed from the first day I walked in the front door. God has truly blessed me again by leading me to the Pope John XXIII Community. I thank my friend all the time for leading me back to God. He never left me – I just forgot my way!



The Seventh Annual Parish Picnic will take place September 24 from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Once again, Jim and Peig Shackelford have graciously offered their home at 3320 State Route 674 for the Picnic.

Mark the date on your calendar now for a day of great food and family fun with your fellow parishioners.





Pope John XXIII Softball Team



PUT ME IN COACH. I'M READY TO PLAY!

By Skip Reed

Pope John XXIII's inaugural coed softball team began with sign-ups the first week of June 2006. By the time of our first practice on Wednesday June 21, thirty-two brave souls had signed on the dotted line. The possibility of maybe having two teams was on everybody's mind. This thought however was quickly ruled out. Our next practice was preceded by numerous phone calls to me reporting pulled muscles, shoulder strains, and knee injuries. The I.R. [Injured Reserve] list was growing fast! Our first game was only two weeks away, and we were down to twenty-three able-bodied players. The last four practices before opening day were not as hard on our team injury wise, so we started the season with a twenty-person roster. We had a good mixture of experienced veterans and enthusiastic rookies.

I would like to thank Pope John XXIII, Monsignor Frecker, and Regina Hrytzik for supplying the team with a big morale boost. The team had just gone through a long and grueling practice schedule and needed a lift before the first game. The T-shirts were a great surprise. Thank you so much. Thank you also to Patrick Murphy for the idea of using number "twenty-three" on all of the shirts. It gave the opposing score keepers fits! All of the games were played at David Lutheran Church in Canal Winchester, and I would like to thank Penny Babbert and Rick Wetherill for inviting us to join in the fun.

We played a five-game schedule this year starting Sunday July 9 and ending Sunday August 6. We ended our season with a four win, one loss record. There is talk of expanding the league next year. Maybe we can

have two teams. Start stretching now!

Pope John XXIII 2006 Coed Softball Roster

Karen Augenstein	Kriss Cannon
Ryan Crisp	Ed Hoffman
Mike Hoffman	Paul Hoffman
Josh Manning	Zack Manning
Lavern Meyer	Patrick Murphy
Dave Noltemeyer	Karl Osborn
Davey Noltemeyer	Willie Pierce
Chris Pratter	Megan Reed
Skip Reed (Coach)	Deb Saulnier
Jeanette Scholl	Molly Strayer



By: Andi Murphy

This year's vacation bible school took place at David's United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester. Pope John XXIII and David's United Church of Christ worked together to put on the bible school. The theme was Sontreasure Island. Children from three years to the sixth grade were involved in this week of fun and learning. Each evening the children began by having dinner with their families. The meals were donated by various restaurants and volunteers within both churches.

After dinner, the children headed up to Shipwreck Bay where they began the evening singing songs about God's love for them. On Shipwreck Bay there was a large shipwrecked boat and tiki torches lined the pews showing the children where their group was sitting. There were four classes of children: Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade, Second and Third Grade, and Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades. Each class was led by two or three volunteer sailors (adults and teens) to get them where they needed to go.

Once leaving Shipwreck Island the children and sailors went to one of the four stations. In Hermano's

Hideaway the children were met by Hermanos (Rev. Long-Higgins) and Captain Jack (Deacon Pry). The room was set up like a beach with beach blankets and sand. Hermanos and Captain Jack told the children stories from the bible that showed God's love for them. Another station was Parrot Bay where they learned about God's love through games. The Snack Shack was a place where the children made yummy treats that had ocean themes. The children made really cool island crafts in Butterfly Falls. Each of the crafts showed the children how God loves them and cares for them.

At the end of each evening the children returned to Shipwreck Bay to dance and sing songs. On some evenings the Rockin' Rabbi stopped by to sing "Pharaoh, Pharaoh" with the children. The children loved these visits and really rocked the church with dancing and singing. The evening concluded with a prayer by Rev. Long-Higgins or Deacon Pry. Much fun was had by all. The week ended with the children singing all of the songs and dances they had learned for their parents. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make vacation bible school a success.

Pope John Post

Sept., 2006

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"Stemma" of Pope John XXIII