

# St. Paul, the Apostle of the Nations, English Speaking Roman Catholic Parish

St. Vincent De Paul Charitable Society

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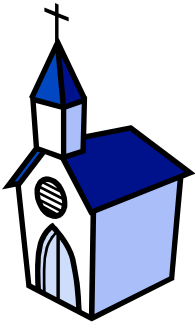
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**CCD: Sunday 10:30**

**Mass: Sunday 11:30**



COMMUNITY BULLETIN, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

## *From Fr. Wiesław's Desk:*

Dear Friends,

I just came back from my trip to Ukraine where I taught my regular course of dogmatics to the Seminarians at Grodek Podolski. I'm very proud to be a little piece of that big project; to bring Catholic faith to that land where for too long people have been deprived of their dignity and religion. As I read more and more about the history of Ukraine, I come to realize how crucial it is today that Poles and Ukrainians build bridges of communication with each other. One element of this is to bring catholic education there and to train young seminarians so that once they will become a priest they will also remember from whom they got their education from. What is more important, the Seminary is gaining more and more independence from their Polish Professors as new Ukrainian priests come back with their STDs and PhDs to work for their compatriots. Right now there are 8 fantastic Ukrainian priests who teach philosophy and theology. There are 57 seminarians from four dioceses.



Do you remember Dennis Flick, a young Ukrainian Seminarian whom we hosted in our Parish and endowed with a hearing aid? Well, last week Dennis came to my room, and handed me an invitation to his priesthood ordination and his first Holy Mass, he will offer in his hometown parish. He will be ordained with a group of 7 candidates on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2009 at the Cathedral Church at Kamieniec Podilskiy. I joked that years ago he hardly new Our Father and he will teach it the others and also hear confessions perfectly well with his hearing aid from Warsaw! He laughed and I must say, I saw a face of a happy man.

There are two big events ahead of us here at St. Paul's. One is our annual celebration of the First Holy Communion. I would like to congratulate to all the children and parents on their zealous attendance to the classes and patient preparation. I know it is hard to tame the idea that God comes to us in a simple sign of Bread and Wine. I realize also how hard it is to find a proper language to talk about the Gospel yet we must not surrender, but try. God himself will illuminate our hearts to understand Him better.

The second event will certainly be the celebration of Confirmation. This certainly is a difficult moment for our teenagers to make a solid decision: to be a Christian by choice and not by accident. It's not easy. The world lures us and offers us other proposals of a happy life. To make a decision to be a Christian is to make a decision to believe in Jesus the Christ, who came not to condemn anybody, but to give a meaning to our life. And our life makes sense not only when we worship but when we love God, our neighbors and those who do not share our outlook on life.

God bless you all!

**Fr. Wiesław Dawidowski, OSA**

## CCD News

### Dates to Note:

- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May: Communion ceremony rehearsal – and Second Reconciliation for our Communion Class, Radna, 14.00
- Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CEREMONY
- Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Retreat for the Confirmation Class
- Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> May: Rehearsal for the Confirmation Class
- Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May: CONFIRMATION CEREMONY
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June: Final CCD Lesson, End-of-CCD-Year Mass

### Confirmation

Traditionally, before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, our candidates provide a little information about themselves: (two of the candidates were absent – Emily and Mateusz)

Name	Nationality Age		What I liked about Confirmation lessons	One thing I learned...	Once confirmed, I expect...
David	German	13	Doing group work	Mary is the link between people and God.	To go to Church every week!
Casper	American/ Polish	13	Learning interesting things about Christianity which I didn't know before	Easter, not Christmas, is the most important festival in the year	To go to Church more often
Rachael	American/ Australian	14	The way some activities were metaphors to make us think about religion	More important than what I learned is the fact that I spent a lot of time developing my faith	To continue to try and be a better Catholic, and perhaps to play a more active role in the Church later on.
Tibor	American/ Hungarian	12	Being closer to God .... And having good snacks!	What a proper Passover supper consists of	To go to Church a lot
Louisa	American/ Polish	14	Further increasing my Catholic knowledge by learning about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and, ultimately, God.	I learned to appreciate and enhance my faith	To greatly understand God and to feel a strong bond with the Catholic Church.
Nicolas	French/ Filipino	13	Interesting things about religion which I never knew before	That even adults get baptised	Go to Church every Sunday
Daniela	American	15	The ability to question what we learned	That faith is universally necessary for seeking hope in times of greatest need	To continue being a devout Catholic and attend Mass every Sunday
Damien	British/ Polish	13	Group work – and getting to know others	How God helps people in everyday life	To be a better Christian
Julie	Brazilian/ American	14	That it was a not too hardworking, independent learning system	That there are many opinions and points of view in the world	To be a fully-fledged member of the Catholic Church and to be closer to God
Roberto	British	14	The lessons were interesting	How prayer can help	To be a better Christian

### Important dates for Confirmation

- Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>: Rehearsal, 17.00 - 18.30 at Radna
- Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Confirmation Retreat
- Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Final Confirmation Lesson
- Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, : Confirmation ceremony - please be at the Church by 11.00



## CCD: Remaining Lessons and Assessments

Important dates to note are:

- CCD as normal on May 17<sup>th</sup>, - except for the Communion Class
- CCD as normal on May 24<sup>th</sup>,
- CCD as normal on May 31<sup>st</sup> – except for the Confirmation Class
- CCD as normal on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the final class for Confirmation 1
- CCD as normal on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the last CCD lesson and will be followed by an End-of CCD-Year Mass



CCD Assessments were given to teachers for their classes today. Each teacher will make individual arrangements as to how these assessments should be completed.

Some may be done together in class. Some teachers may ask the children to complete these at home. Whichever system your child's teacher has adopted, we would be grateful if you could bear the following in mind: The assessment provides an opportunity for children and parents to see as a whole the work which has been completed this year. It also 'formally' brings to an end the teaching of the CCD year. Perhaps the greatest importance of the assessment is the opportunity it provides for parents and children to discuss their faith together. Children seeing their parents taking the assessment seriously are given the clear impression that learning about the Catholic faith is important and worthwhile.

Thank you for all the support you have given the CCD team this year. We hope you will enjoy our final Mass of the CCD year on June 7<sup>th</sup> in which children will receive certificates to mark completion of their course, and during which all our children will play a role in the celebration of this special Eucharist.



### **Our First Holy Communion Class**

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, at the 11h30 Mass, our Communion Class will receive the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist for the first time. This year we have 7 children receiving the Blessed Sacrament, and although a much smaller group than in previous years, the class reflects the multinational dimension of our parish – we have children from Poland, South Africa, Germany, the USA, the Philippines and Mexico. Our Catholic faith unites us, and sharing Communion is what brings all of us closer to Christ.

The children have been very hard at work since September 2008 preparing to receive the Sacraments. They have attended CCD lessons on Sunday mornings before Mass and have been very attentive and involved; they have done their homework diligently with their parents; they participated in a Reconciliation Retreat earlier this year – in short, they and their parents have taken this year of spiritual development very seriously, and it is bound to bear much good fruit in the future!

We look forward to sharing this very special occasion of First Communion with Jasper Abrahan, Lea Fuhrmann, Danielle Henning, Michael Kaffka, Alicja Rymaszewska, Gabriela Sainz, Arnel Villamin and their families. We pray that the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Blessed Eucharist will be gifts that will enrich their lives, and ones they will always cherish.

### **Lenten Charity update:**

For our Lenten Charity this year, the Parish Council has decided to support the work of the Drop-In Centre for children, established by the Marian Fathers, in Grudziadz

Below is a description of the centre:

*The Marian Fathers have given up the basement in their parish house for the drop in centre. There is a kitchen which our sponsors have equipped, a big dining/homework room, a storage room for clothes and food and a computer room. Children come three times a week where volunteers help them with homework and teach them how to use computers, older children help younger ones with homework and games and older children together with the volunteers prepare food.*

*The aim is to show these children that other forms of life exist, bringing them closer to God. The children are taught social skills as well as being given time and love. There is a priest who is in charge, Fr. Grzegorz Burdyski and he has a team of volunteers.*

*Another important aspect of the centre's work is to take these children for a 5-6 day holiday twice a year, winter and summer and also on some weekend trips. There are always two coach loads and usually there is a mixture of children – children from the drop in centre, girls from boarding house run by the nuns, children from 'normal' families and sometimes from the local children's home. On these trips children learn to help each other, have rotations for kitchen/dinning room duty as well as have daily Mass, rosary, religious formation and fun! For these trips they take as much of their own food as possible to save costs and usually take sleeping bags as well.*

*The children who use the drop-in centre come from very deprived and sad backgrounds. Many of them have experienced sexual or physical abuse as well as seen terrible things committed in front of them. The volunteers are committed and devoted people who give up their own holiday time to help these underprivileged kids.*

A second collection in aid of this very deserving cause will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, and Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April. Please give generously – the children need all the help they can get.

### **Attention all Parish Members!**

- There are now two further candidates for the RCIA program. We need to locate a catechist, and materials.
- There is also a growing need in Warsaw to have a formal English speaking Pre-Cana course in place – which could also be advertised on the archdiocesan webpage.

Please contact Father Dawidowski if you would like to volunteer.

### **Blessing of the St. Paul Icon Pilgrimage**

Father Dawidowski would like to know who would like to join him in the sacred blessing of our St. Paul icon in Rome, Italy at the Vatican. The proposed pilgrimage will either take place on **June 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>** or **June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Each set of dates includes a Wednesday audience.

Please notify Father Dawidowski which one suits you best.