



The Shamrock

September 2009

Living Your Strengths as a Catholic

A well-meaning woman, looking to get involved in her parish says to the Pastor “Father, I want to be more involved in the parish and help. What do you need me to do?” When he asks what she would like to do she says, “Whatever you want.” So he suggests something, and she says, “No, I don’t think that would be right for me – but how else can I help, whatever you want?” Sound familiar? Have you ever wondered how you might get involved in the Parish, but don’t know where you fit? Luckily, St. Pat’s offers a wonderful program based on the Gallup-developed Strengths Finder called “Living Your Strengths.” This Christian-focused program uses positive psychology to figure out where an individual’s strengths lie, and how he/she can apply it to spiritual life.

Deacon David Krueger from the Saint Columbkille Parish offers insight into the Strengths Finder program and how we as Catholic Christians can use it to do our part to better our Parish community and our personal spiritual life.

When someone takes the Strengths Finder, they find out their Top 5 talents (or those things which they do well). According to Deacon Krueger, “those are the areas in which God gave you gifts and abilities. I find that people have more potential for improvement in those areas where they are naturally talented than anywhere else.”

When someone is in an activity that uses their strengths, they become energized by it. But when they aren’t, it is a draining activity and they burn out. Sometimes when people get their Top 5 they say, “Yes, this is why I love to do what I do.” It is critical that when someone gets their Strengths they are either part of a Strengths Group or receive coaching. Otherwise, it’s just a horoscope.

Deacon Krueger further explains, “I do not expect the universal Church to make any statement on whether or not parishioners should take part in Strengths Finder. But, the Church has made it clear that everyone should share their God-given gifts. I love how Strengths Finder combined with the group or coaching encourages, facilitates and enables people to share their God given talents.”

In a speech about The Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project, Bishop Blasé Cupich said, “If the baptized are not encouraged, facilitated, enabled by the Church to share their gifts, then their basic call to holiness will not reach its full potential. If we are serious about the call to holiness, then fostering the gifts of all the baptized cannot be viewed as an option.”

Once people really understand their gifts and how to grow them, they are pretty good at finding the ways to apply them in their own world.

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Mark Your Calendars

- August 30th – Parish Carnival. 10th Anniversary of St. Patrick’s School Celebration Kick-Off
- Sept 7th – Labor Day. No School. Parish & School Offices CLOSED
- Sept 9th – K-8th/ Confirmation Religious Formation Classes begin
- Sept 12th & 13th – Liturgy of the Word for Children & Sunday Preschool begins
- Sept 13th – Youth Ministry Event: Laser Tag
- Sept 13th – Welcome to the Parish Coffee for New & Newer Parish Families – Parish Center
- Sept 30th – Blessing of Pets: Parish Parking Lot

www.stpatselkhorn.org



Want to Get Involved?

Kick-off meetings are happening all month for St. Pat's Ministries, Committees and Groups.

Watch the bulletin or visit us online for details.

If you're interested in learning about opportunities to get involved or would like more information,

please contact

Laura Geisinger in the Development Office at 289-4289 x 1526 or lgeisinger@stpatselkhorn.org,

Living Your Strengths Cont...

Deacon Krueger has seen people discover their gifts in the parish and be delighted by discovering how they can apply them to their career. As one understands his/her gifts, especially in a group, they also begin to understand the gifts of others. This understanding really changed the life of an administrator that went through coaching. As she would look at how some members of her staff tried to do things, she thought they were weird. But after her Strengths Finder training, she realized that they were approaching the tasks a different way than she would because they have different strengths. She also understood why she tended to give certain tasks to certain people, and it allowed her to do a better job of that. She said it made her much more accepting and much less judgmental of others.

When people have a sense of their Strengths, it is a liberating thing to realize that what they have received is a gift from God and often gives a sense of wonder at how specifically and individually we were made by God. To go a bit further, to look at the gifts God gave us can be a clue to what God hopes we will do. In the words of Deacon Krueger, "we aren't using Strengths to form good workers for what we want to accomplish at the parish. We're doing it to build up disciples who can transform their world."

Interested in learning more about your strengths and how you can apply them to your church and personal life? St. Pat's will be holding its next Living Your Strengths small group sessions in October. For more information and future dates, please visit http://www.stpatselkhorn.org/adult_ministry/LivingYourStrengths.cfm.

Living Your Strengths Small Group Sessions

Monday afternoons: Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 from 1:30-3:00pm in the Family Room (located in Boland Hall) (perfect for parents who come to pick up their kids after school).

Tuesday evenings: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 from 7:00-8:30 in classroom 331 (next to PreS/K in "purple" wing of school).

To register, please contact Beth Kathol, Director of Adult Faith Formation 289-4289 ext. 1525

St. Patrick's Baptisms

William Patrick Gray, Son of Kevin & Tiffany
Thomas Martin Morgan, Son of Todd & Kimberly
Ellie Christine Olson, Daughter of Charles & Jennifer
Layne James Seier, Son of Jerry & Kendra
Burke Patrick Quinn, Son of Russ & Traci
Macy Ann Meier, Daughter of Kenneth & Megan
Molly Curran Flynn, Daughter of Patrick & Gina
Hendrix Michael Palubecki, Son of Michael & Anna



“Stewardship is a personal response as Christians to the Gospel call to conversion of mind and heart.”

The Concept of Stewardship

When the Parish Stewardship Program was launched a few years ago, there were many calls for the archdiocese to change the name of the Catholic Stewardship Appeal to avoid confusion between gifts to the parish and gifts to the diocese. The name didn't change, however, and for very good reason. Our hope is for Catholics to embrace the concept of stewardship fully and understand that stewardship is a way of life, a way to give back what God has blessed us with. This giving back isn't limited to the parish or the diocese. It encompasses both and much more.

A rich description is found in the 1993 pastoral from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops entitled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. The bishops call us to:

- Receive God's gifts gratefully;
- Cultivate them responsibly;
- Share them lovingly with others; and
- Return them with increase to God.

Stewardship includes the concept of safeguarding - using wisely and justly - our human and financial resources. It is frequently expressed as a call to give our time, talent and financial resources to God, especially through the Church.

Advocating stewardship does not mean we ask people to relinquish all of their possessions. Stewardship does require education and the effort to connect it with our relationships. Stewardship education is about how we care for the possessions that God has entrusted to us. Stewardship calls us to nurture our relationships with God, our families, our church, our workplace, our environment, our suffering neighbors, and our world.

Stewardship is a personal response as Christians to the Gospel call to conversion of mind and heart. Stewardship is a faith response to share all we have and thus participate fully in God's plan for our world. Stewardship is an expression of discipleship - how we understand and live our lives. Whatever we are and possess is in actuality God's gift that we hold in trust. God calls us to be collaborators in the work of creation, redemption and sanctification. Jesus enjoins us to live in witness to His love with such an enthusiasm that we freely and gratefully share our gifts with others.

Stewardship is part of our Catholic tradition and who we are as Church. God is the source of all we have and are, and we can learn to see ourselves as caring in the work of God by the way we live, by the way we use our time, talents and financial resources. Stewardship calls for commitment and, for some of us, that might mean a radical conversion. We need to avoid the temptation to make giving an end in itself - it is part of something much larger.

Source: Most Reverend Timothy Dolan, Archdiocese of Milwaukee,
<http://www.catholicappeal.org/>

Welcome to Our New Parishioners

- **VOLENEC**, Robert & Mrs. Desiree Jacobsen
- **KOENIG**, Jean
- **SCHONEMAN**, Matthew & Greta
- **SEIER**, Jerry & Kendra
- **BERNTH**, Steve & Mary
- **COREY**, Russell & Michaela
- **HAUTZINGER**, Gary & Debbie
- **LADD**, Sarah
- **WILSON**, Paul & Annette
- **RYAN**, Steven & Lindsay
- **HENSON**, David & Dr. Kimberley Haynes-Henson
- **BILEK**, Phil & Cathy
- **STESKAL**, Richard & Heidi
- **KOWALEWSKI**, Lisa
- **HEYWOOD**, Ryan & Jessica
- **KINNEY**, Mark & Erin
- **GATES**, Jennie
- **CHRISTENSEN**, Erik & Stefanie
- **COLEMAN**, Garfield & Shannon
- **OXTON**, Geoffrey & Ashley
- **MEIER**, Ken & Megan
- **FROELICH**, Jeanne
- **CARMICHAEL**, Jeff & Lisa
- **WATERS**, William & Patricia
- **POJAR**, John & Kimberly

St. Patrick's 9th Annual Golf Tournament



The 9th Annual St. Patrick's Golf Outing was held on Friday, August 7th, 2009 at Tiburon Golf Club. One hundred and twelve golfers came out to support St. Patrick's through some good-natured, long-drivin' rivalry.

Several generous sponsors and donors contributed to the success of the tournament, raising nearly \$12,000!! (All of the event proceeds benefit the St. Pat's Building Fund.)

In addition to supportive golfers and contributors, this year's golf committee members were exceptional. St. Pat's new Stewardship & Development Director, Laura Geisinger, began this year's golf planning process having never been on a golf course. After a few vocabulary lessons & charts and graph sessions, things improved tremendously. The committee, comprised of several new parishioners along with a few familiar faces, was able to coordinate a fun, crowd-pleasing, profitable golf outing.

Thank you & Congratulations to the following committee members on a wonderful job!

**Erik Wiegert
Tim Conrad
Jen Bober
Charles Olson**

**Amy Osten
Mike Socha
Sydney Peters
Justin Vossen**

Mark your calendars...

10th Annual Golf Outing - Friday, August 6th, 2010.

Plan to join us next year at our new event location, just up the road!

The Pines, Valley, NE