



Volume 7, Issue 1

Good News from St. Pius V

Spring 2013

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Nancy Nasko: 2012 NCEA Principal of the Year

We are proud of and thrilled for Ms. Nancy Nasko, principal of St. Pius V School, who was named Distinguished Principal in the Great Lakes region by the National Catholic Educational Association.

The award, one of twelve given nationally, reflects Ms. Nasko's 27 years of extraordinary service to our school, including 17 as principal. Under her leadership, St. Pius V School has continued to grow and to prepare students for entry into the best Chicago area high schools. Ms. Nasko has also shown outstanding leadership as a second-term president of the Archdiocesan Association of Catholic Principals. Nancy will receive her award along with 11 other principals from around the country at the NCEA convention in Houston on April 2. Congratulations Ms. Nasko!



St. Pius V School principal Nancy Nasko (far right) and Fr. Chuck Dahm, O.P. (far left) with students recognized by their peers at a Martin Luther King event for being classroom peacemakers.



Noche Mexicana 2013: 7th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser!

Please join us 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, for *Noche Mexicana*, an evening of culture, food, and fun in support of St. Pius V School's Scholarship Fund. This year we celebrate the 140th Anniversary of St. Pius V School. We hope you will join us in commemorating this important milestone.

We have had an amazing school year so far with an increase in enrollment of 16 students. We hope to round it out with our best *Noche* yet! *Noche Mexicana* will return to Carnivale Restaurant, 702 W. Fulton, Chicago. All proceeds will provide financial assistance to parents who want to send their children to our school. If you would like to join us on May 2, provide event sponsorship, or make an in-kind donation toward the silent auction, more information can be found online at SaintPiusV.org/noche or by calling Kurt Lewis at (312) 226-1590. We hope to see you there!

**St. Pius V
Parish Kermes
June 8-9, 2013**

\$5.00 per ticket
Information & tickets:
312.226.6161

**Drive away in a
2013
Ford Mustang
Convertible!
Early Bird
Drawings!**

Halo Award

St. Pius V Recognized for Its Big Economic Impact on Pilsen Neighborhood

St. Pius V Parish's annual economic impact on the local economy is just shy of \$15 million, according to the preliminary results of a national study released in Chicago last December.

The **Faith Environments Educational Forums**, a partnership of preservationists and architects that collaborate with the non-profit organization Partners for Sacred Places, presented the inaugural "Halo Award" to St. Pius V. The award recognizes the parish's "outstanding achievement leveraging their sacred place to serve their community."

Research scientists at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice devised the methodology for a study of 40 houses of worship in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Fort Worth, Texas. The preliminary findings show an annual average economic impact for faith communities of \$4.3 million. Of all of the houses of worship in the study, St. Pius V Parish had by far the biggest impact, at nearly \$15 million a year. It was the only Catholic

Fr. Chuck and Sr. Beth Murphy, O.P. receive the Halo Award from Gianfranco Grande, director of Partners for Sacred Spaces, and Robin Whitehurst, an architect with Bailey Edward, sponsors of the award.

Church to participate in the Chicago study.

Along with the award and a \$1,000.00 donation to St. Pius V, the parish benefits from the consulting services of the Chicago Partners for Sacred Places staff to guide parishioners and friends in a process to determine how best to use the Halo Study to increase financial support for St. Pius V's high impact programming.

Would you like to help us maximize the impact of the study? Contact Fr. Chuck or Sr. Beth at 312-226-6161.



Association of Chicago Priests

HOPE, Domestic Violence Ministry Honored for Community Impact

The Association of Chicago Priests honored the St. Pius V Parish domestic violence program, HOPE, and its outreach in the archdiocese at its annual Mardi Gras celebration on Feb. 10. The ACP thanked Fr Chuck Dahm and

the St. Pius V HOPE staff for their tireless work in assisting victims of domestic violence, raising awareness about the problem, and helping parishes develop a ministry for victims of domestic violence.



Fr. Chuck, who is the Chicago Archdiocesan Director of Domestic Violence Outreach, has preached in support of and developed parish-based ministries to families affected by domestic violence in more than 25 parishes in the archdiocese. In the last two months he has preached at St. Maria Goretti in Schiller Park, St. Barbara in Bridgeport, St. Michael the Archangel in Back of the Yards, and St. John Berchman in Logan Square. If you want him to come to your parish, please contact him at cдахm@stpiousvparish.org.

Fr. Chuck and HOPE staff members Dolores Tapia and Carlos Lopez (on right), celebrate the ACP honor for domestic violence prevention with Domestic Violence Outreach board members (l to r) Jan Berdulis, John Monaco, and Valerie Yokie.

Making it Happen

Illinois Driver's License Law Paves Way Toward Immigration Reform

The driver's license legislation Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed into law in January must have made Blanca Rodriguez breathe a sigh of relief.

Just days before the legislation passed the Illinois House, this U.S.-born high school student stood in the St. Pius V sanctuary next to Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and told those gathered for the Epiphany celebration about the day her dad was driving her to catechism class and a police officer stopped them. Blanca's father, an undocumented immigrant, did not have a driver's license. He risked the possibility of arrest every time he drove a car.

Imagine Blanca's fear. Soon, she and hundreds of other Illinois children of undocumented immigrants no longer need to fear.

The Secretary of State's office says the law will be implemented by November. It makes an already-existing provision, called the "Temporary Visitor's Driver's License," (TVDL) available to undocumented individuals who prove they have lived in the state for a year.

Soon after Blanca spoke at the church, Fr. Brendan Curran and members of the parish social action group went to Springfield to speak with legislators about the bill.

Rep. Dan Burke said from the floor of the House "Thanks to Fr. Brendan for bringing the Holy Spirit to change the hearts of many legislators who had opposed this bill."

When he signed the legislation into law, Governor Quinn said



Fr. Brendan blesses Mayor Emanuel, Blanca Rodriguez, and Alderman Danny Solis at St. Pius V before the Illinois House vote on this legislative immigration reform bill.

that it would give momentum to efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform in Congress. It is crucial to the families we serve to have the voices of immigrant advocates at that table. To join the conversation, sign up for electronic action alerts from the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. You'll find a link to their site at www.stpiusvparish.org.

A Dreamer's Story

Nallely Silva: The Pride of St. Pius V

Nallely Silva and her parents and three sisters are active lay leaders at St. Pius V. As a baby, Nallely came to the US from Mexico with her mom and dad. What she has done in the 18 years since then would fill any parent with pride.

Nallely was a National Honor Society student and captain of the cheerleading team at her public high school. She was a member of student council, the peer mentoring program, a science and engineering club, student ambassadors, International Dreamers club, and dance team, *and* kept up her grades, earning a scholarship to Illinois Institute of Technology where she majors in business.

"I plan to use my degree to serve the not-for-profit and social entrepreneurship areas of business in order to improve communities and aid low-income youth and families," she said.

Nallely will apply soon for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a temporary solution created by President Obama allowing certain young adults to obtain a work permit



while they wait for other immigration reforms that may include a permanent residency solution. A work permit would allow Nallely to work, pay for her education, and pursue her career. She continues to work hard for comprehensive immigration reform. Nallely feels that while some reform has occurred it has not been enough. She says she won't stop advocating for immigrants until comprehensive reform is accomplished. "Our communities have worked too hard," she said, to settle for anything less than what is just.

Nallely Silva's graduation day.

Staff in Focus

Carlos Lopez, Pastoral and Family Counselor

"I have to practice what I teach," says Carlos Lopez. "That's the best - the only way." For more than 12 years Carlos has been working as a member of HOPE at St. Pius V, the parish pastoral counseling program. He provides individual counseling and support group facilitation for men and their families who are breaking the cycle of violence. He also facilitates couples' groups and support groups for individuals with depression. Carlos says he has had opportunities for more lucrative work elsewhere but that "something keeps me here."



That "something" is his compassion for those who suffer from uncontrolled violence. He says that if he has learned anything from his clients, it is how much people suffer from their anger. "I see the consequences," he says. "Everybody suffers in an abusive family: the spouse or loved one who is abused, the child, and the abuser as well."

Much of his work is helping abusers learn to read the signals given by their own bodies that they are becoming angry, Carlos says. A red face, a racing heart, or sweating palms - when not manifestations of illness - are nature's signals that something has upset a person's emotional equilibrium. Learning to read these signs and attend to the pain within before inflicting it on others is the task of a lifetime for some abusers. For participants in St. Pius V's counseling program, Carlos is there to help them along this journey of healing for themselves and their loved ones.

To learn about the self-care tips Carlos teaches his clients visit www.stpiusvparish.org/dontletangerwin.

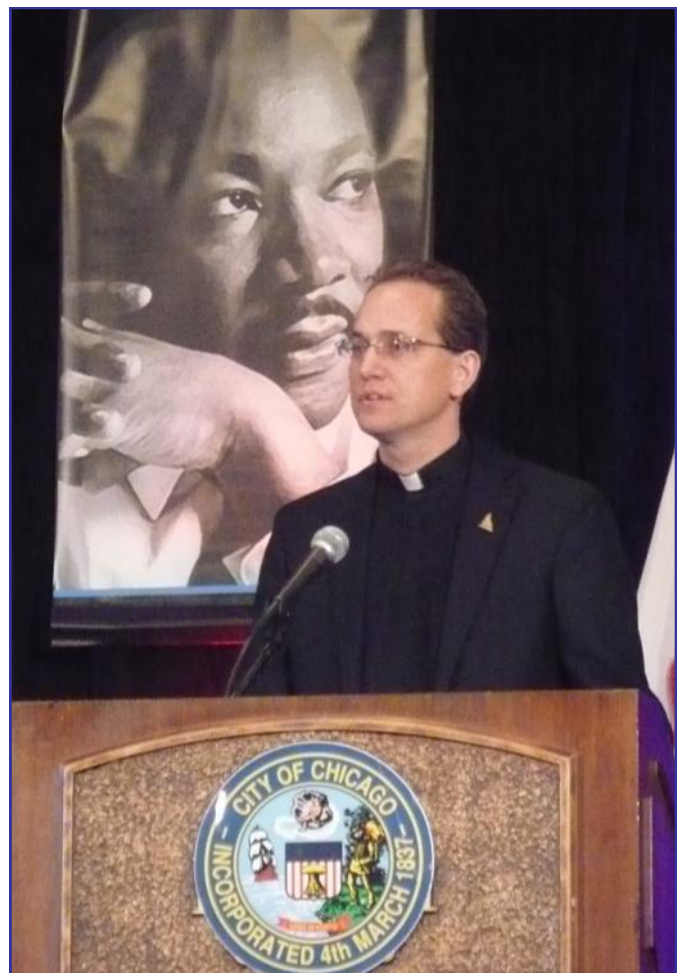


www.facebook.com/stpiusvparish

Fr. Brendan offers the unity prayer at the City's Martin Luther King Breakfast at the Hilton Hotel on January 18.



Families watch as the Three Kings present their gifts during the religious education program's annual "Tres Reyes" celebration.



Happy Easter, and Thank You!

As we prepare to celebrate the joy of knowing that Jesus' death and resurrection renew all of creation with new life, we are mindful of the joy of new life that comes to so many we serve because of your generosity. As winter turns to spring, may you and your loved ones find joy, peace, and harmony in your daily routines and family celebrations!



Brendan Curran, O.P.
Pastor



Charles W. Dahm, O.P.
Associate Pastor



Matthias Mueller, O.P.
Associate Pastor

