



Volume 7, Issue 2

Good News from St. Pius V

Summer 2013

1919 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60608 Phone: 312-226-6161

"It changes you..."

Why You are Invited to *Celebrating the Harvest* October 26

Sixteen-year-old Andres is one reason we ask you to mark your calendar for October 26, the date of the sixth annual *Celebrating the Harvest* award banquet and silent auction at St. Pius V. Andres says that being a part of the 2013 confirmation class has changed him. And that is what *Celebrating the Harvest* is about.

We've chosen the theme *Transforming Lives* for this year's celebration because of Andres and his classmates, who remind us that our work is to help people grow. That would be impossible without your support.

We hope you will join us in the St. Pius V church hall on October 26, and invite your friends. You'll enjoy great food. There will be music, the fun of bidding on a favorite silent auction item, and time to learn more about the transformative mission of St. Pius V.

Make reservations now and learn more about how you can help by visiting StPiusVParish.org/Harvest.



CELEBRATING THE HARVEST TRANSFORMING LIVES

"La Cosecha," the harvest in Spanish, is shorthand for *Celebrating the Harvest*. Our logo represents the Latino character of our community, Thanksgiving time, and our life around the table of the Eucharist. Thanks to Andy Kenny of Andy James Design for his great work. See more at www.andyjamesdesign.com.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

U.S. Bishops Call for 'Practical and Humane' Solutions

St. Pius V parishioners are actively supporting comprehensive immigration reform currently being considered in the U.S. Congress. We participated in the May 1 march of thousands of people to the Federal Plaza and later in the archdiocesan-sponsored procession to Holy Family parish involving more than 1,500 faithful. Our parishioners signed more than 1,000 postcards to their U.S. legislators, and have visited Senator Kirk and Congressman Lipinski to convince them to support the Senate bill developed by the Gang of 8.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, called for "practical and humane"



Father Brendan Curran, OP, and catechist Maria Morales lead parishioners during the May Day March to Federal Plaza.

reform in a June 9 statement. "All around the country, parishes help immigrants through English classes, job training, medical aid and other basic assistance.... Our nation has deported more than 1.5 million people over the past five years, separating hundreds of thousands of parents from their U.S.-citizen children. Our detention system has exploded, incarcerating 400,000 a year, often in substandard conditions. And our brothers and sisters continue to die horrible deaths on both sides of the border," he wrote, adding that family

reunification should be "a cornerstone" of the reform, border integrity should be protected, and the root causes of migration addressed.

St. Pius V School Pride



The Secret Enrollment Formula

Families + Teachers + Students + Friends = Success

With dedicated families, strong faculty and administration, great friends, and a wonderful reputation, our school ended the academic year with 235 students and will likely enroll more than 240 next year. That's an increase of about 12% over the last three years. We like to think it is because we uphold the same values and traditions that have made this school so strong for more than 140 years.



Above: A first grader learns good stewardship of our planet by creating an endangered animal diorama. Right: the class of 2013 with principal Nancy Nasko.

Congratulations to our Graduates

The end of the school year is bittersweet as we bid a fond farewell to the graduating class of 2013. This year's 25 graduates have been accepted at some of the top high schools in Chicago including Fenwick, St. Ignatius, Latin, Walter Payton, and De La Salle. We send with them our prayers for continued achievement and a lifetime full of service, happiness, and prosperity. Good luck, graduates!



Noche Mexicana a Grand Success!

A big thanks to our guests for the May 2 event. They raised more than \$21,000 for scholarships! Proceeds will ensure a top-notch education for students who would not otherwise be able to attend our school.



Leadership in Philanthropy 101

College senior Andy Vaughan wanted to make a difference, so on the advice of his uncle, Dominican Father Andrew Carl Wisdom, he decided to raise money for St. Pius V School. Andy invited his family and friends to join him by saving \$1 a day for a month to benefit the school. At month's end Andy presented St. Pius V principal

Nancy Nasko a stack of checks totaling more than \$1,000. What a great idea! Please pass it on!

Leadership in Philanthropy 202

Every year, Kathy Woods and her four siblings pool their donations and turn them into gold for a St. Pius V School family. Once they have their contribution collected, Kathy's husband Mark gets his business to ante up with a matching gift, allowing the family to double their impact. The recipients of their generous \$1,500.00 scholarship this

year were sister and brother Karla and Sebastian, who said thank you in an interview recounted in a letter to the Woods. Karla, who just finished 7th grade, said "When I was at the public school there were a lot of bullies and here there aren't any. It's a lot safer here."

"Yeah," 5th grader Sebastian chimed in. "Teachers there didn't pay enough attention to us kids. Here there is better behavior and better grades. Teachers care about us outside of school. They want to keep us safe from danger."

You, can help, too!

For ideas about how to multiply your gift to St. Pius V, visit stpiusparish.org/multiply, or contact Director of Mission Advancement Sr. Beth Murphy, OP, at 312-2266161 or bmurphy@stpiusparish.org.



Left: philanthropist Andy Vaughan with school principal Nancy Nasko. Above: Woods' Family scholarship beneficiaries Karla and Sebastian.

“You need to be patient, and let things happen”

Casa Juan Diego Youth Minister Creates “Church” among Teens

When Lisseth Gonzalez had the opportunity to direct the parish’s Confirmation program last fall she jumped at the chance. “I’m from the [Pilsen] community,” she points out. “My family was active in the parish even before I was born. Fr. Chuck baptized me at St. Pius V and I was also confirmed here 10 years ago.”

That credibility helped Lisseth guide the 79 teens who completed the nine-month formation program and celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 18.

For many, like 16-year old Andres, a student at Benito Juarez high school, the program was transforming. He started in September with little experience of community involvement. The weekly meetings of prayer, instruction, and interaction with his peers revealed gifts of leadership, which he used to help organize service projects, a peace march calling for

non violence through the Pilsen neighborhood, a retreat, and other activities.

“I had heard a lot about Casa Juan Diego before,”

Andres says. “You do more than learn here. It changes you.”

Working with so many teens is a challenge but Lisseth, supported by a team of six volunteer coordinators, says remaining open is the key.

“You need to be patient, stop and let things happen,” she explains. “At first you have 79 different mindsets, 79 different ideas, 79 different up-bringsings. But by the final retreat, we had all these teens placing themselves

in the presence of God, singing and praying together, demonstrating that they too are the church, the people of God.” It’s beautiful. It’s life-changing. It affirms what we have been doing for nine months.”



Youth Director Lisseth Gonzalez with Andres at Casa Juan Diego Youth Center. Andres was one of 79 students who participated in the center’s Confirmation program this year.

Casa Juan Diego

Center Expansion to Double Capacity for Service to Youth and Teens

Construction of the second floor on Casa Juan Diego begins this July. The expansion will nearly double our capacity, enabling us to include 150 students in our after-school program as well as expand our preparation of young people for confirmation to over 100 youth candidates.

Thanks to St. Procopius Parish, we have space at the former Holy Trinity school to continue services to children and youth this summer. Participants will receive academic assistance as well as arts and crafts, social skill training, sports, and field trips. A summer camp will operate for small children in the mornings and serve older youth in the afternoons.



Architect’s rendering of the Casa Juan Diego second floor expansion.

Thanks to all who contributed to make this capital project a success. It will greatly increase our ability to serve our community.

New Program Serves Preschoolers

Casa Juan Diego has partnered with Tolton Center whose mission is to provide adult education and family literacy within a caring community.

An affiliate of De La Salle High School, Tolton Center offers mothers and their preschool children a program in literacy and personal development at several centers in Chicago. Working with adults, Tolton breaks the cycle of illiteracy for them and their children. Thanks to Tolton Center for bringing their program to us.

One remedy

Fr. Brendan Speaks out on Cook County Gun Tax Initiative

When Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle planned to announce a \$25 tax on all guns purchased in Cook County, she chose St. Pius V as the place to do it. She was joined by St. Pius V pastor Fr. Brendan Curran, OP, and representatives of 20 other community organizations in the St. Pius V chapel on April 1 to officially mark the start of the tax. As she introduced Fr. Brendan at the news conference, President Preckwinkle thanked him for his commitment to end gun violence.

"A week ago today, I had the funeral for a 15-year-old boy who was killed in Little Village on his way home from school," Fr. Brendan said. "The gun tax is one of the remedies we need to stop the bleeding on our streets." He thanked the county for having the courage to pass this legislation and support other efforts to deter those who use guns to commit crime.

President Preckwinkle pushed for this policy, which is expected to raise \$600,000 annually, to help fund the Cook County Health System, where it costs roughly \$52,000 to treat a single gunshot victim. In fact, St. Pius V parishioner, Javier Minero, spent 41 days in ICU at John H. Stroger Hospital before he died of wounds inflicted from being gunned down on our neighborhood streets this year.

Kermes a Great Success

Hundreds of friends and neighbors joined parishioners at St. Pius V for our annual summer Kermes (street festival) on June 8-9. Our guests jammed Cullerton Avenue to enjoy delicious Mexican food, music, dancing, games, and the chance to connect with the parish family.

Proceeds from the Kermes support our social services and provide an opportunity for participants in our programs to volunteer in a family atmosphere.

The car raffle was special this year. The winner of the red Mustang convertible was local resident Angel Gabriel Roman who was present Sunday night for the drawing. Winners of the cash prizes were Tio Conseco (\$1,000), Severo Suarez (\$500), and Trisha Arredondo (\$500).

Gunshot victims make up more than 30 percent of the patients seen at the Stroger trauma center, President Preckwinkle said.



Fr. Brendan, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and community leaders at the April 1 gun tax news conference at St. Pius V.

On behalf of all who benefit from the proceeds of the Kermes we thank all our volunteers, guests, sponsors, donors, and raffle participants!

We will see you Aug. 31-Sept. 1 for the fall Kermes at St. Pius V.



Fr. Brendan with the happy winner of the Mustang Convertible, Angel Roman.

What Summer Slow-down?

This summer promises to be as busy as ever. Every Friday evening one of us is presiding at a neighborhood street Mass. We believe this is a contribution toward keeping the streets of Pilsen safe for our families. Then there is the Casa Juan Diego expansion to oversee, the fall Kermes to prepare, and the *Celebrating the Harvest / Transforming Lives* in October to plan. We hope we see you on Oct. 26. Please keep us and our St. Pius V families in your thoughts and prayers as you enjoy some summer relaxation with your own families. Thanks for your generous support.

Fr. Brendan Curran, OP.

Brendan Curran, O.P.
Pastor

Chuck Dahm, OP.

Charles W. Dahm, O.P.
Associate Pastor

Matthias Mueller, OP.
Matthias Mueller, O.P.
Associate Pastor

