



Good News from St. Pius V

1919 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60608 • Phone: 312-226-6161
Volume 8, Issue 2 Summer 2014

“I’m talking about my heart.”

Rosas family receives and gives back to parish, community

Antonia Rosas sits with her husband Rudolfo in their modest Pilsen home and declares “When I talk about St. Pius V, I’m talking about my heart.”

She makes this impassioned declaration because of the role St. Pius V has played in her family’s joys and sorrows – both of which have been plentiful. She and Rudolfo say that the support they received from St. Pius V during the difficult years after their immigration from Mexico kept their marriage and family together.



Rudolfo and Antonia Rosas with daughter Mireya and son Rudolfo, Jr. Their oldest, Alberto, was unavailable for the photo.

It started when they arrived in Chicago in 1995 with their toddler son. Antonia’s aunt invited her to join the parish Christian base communities. She accepted, she said, but participated only half-heartedly until parish staff member Dolores Tapia encouraged Antonia to give more of herself. She joined the parish leadership program, which, she says, taught her about her faith, about the principles of Catholic social teaching, and, perhaps most importantly, that she has her own voice she can use for good.

Antonia began using that voice to strengthen her family. Her participation in the parish women’s group helped her see that she and Rudolfo needed support as a couple. Though Rudolfo was initially resistant, they both say now that the programs helped them to understand each other, to improve their relationship with their three children, and to grow spiritually and emotionally. When Rudolfo brings out photographs taken on their wedding day – almost 25 years ago, Antonia says “Without the help of the programs at St. Pius V our marriage would not have lasted all these years.”

“YOUR DAUGHTER HAS BEEN SHOT”

With the help of St. Pius V Parish, Antonia and Rodol-

fo faced a challenge this spring that they met with uncommon grace and strength.

On a mild March afternoon Antonia answered the phone and heard the words no mother should have to hear: “Your daughter has been shot.”

Sixteen-year-old Mireya, a leader in the parish youth group, was walking with a friend in Pilsen’s business district after school when a gunfight erupted between two gangs. She was caught in the (See page three)

“La Cosecha”

7th Annual “Celebrating the Harvest” Scheduled for October 25, 2014

Mark your calendars for October 25, 2014, the 7th^h annual St. Pius V Celebrating the Harvest Awards Banquet and Silent Auction.

“This year we look forward to welcoming you, and with your help, widening circle of support that we provide to families like the Rosas’s. Join us in the parish hall for another great meal, the fun and excitement of the auction, and the joy of being together to express our gratitude to our annual honorees.

This year we are offering expanded opportunities for our event sponsors. Visit www.stpiusvparish.org/harvest.



CELEBRATING THE HARVEST
GATHERING FRIENDS

St. Pius V School Pride



The 28-member graduating class of 2014 with principal Nancy Nasko.

Ms. Liz Lucarelli is retiring from St. Pius V.

On the path to a successful future

CONGRATULATIONS, ST. PIUS V CLASS OF 2014!

We offer our prayers for a bright future to the St. Pius V School graduating class of 2014. These students have worked hard and accomplished great things already. Soon they will begin their journeys through high school, college and beyond.

“The path we choose for the next eight years – high school and college — may not be easy,” said graduating 8th grade student Madalyn Torres, “but we should not give up. For what we put into our education will help us to make our career.”

The graduates will attend some of the city's top high schools, including St. Ignatius College Prep, Whitney Young, De La Salle, Holy Trinity, UIC College Prep, and

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR 2014-15!

Your child or a child you know can benefit from St. Pius V School's long, rich tradition of educational excellence and service to our community. Many of our students are children of alumni, attesting to the enduring value of a St. Pius V education.

Call us today to enroll your child, and encourage families you know to consider St. Pius V as a great option for their children. Remind them that our graduates go on to attend the top high schools in the city. Please visit www.saintpiusv.org to complete an interest form or call (312) 226-1590 to request a tour.



Our Lady of Tepeyac, among others. Congratulations, Class of 2014! We are proud of you.

GOODBYE AND GOD BLESS MS. LUCARELLI!

Ms. Elizabeth Lucarelli has completed 20 years as our kindergarten teacher, having spent her 42-year teaching career in Catholic schools. “Liz Lucarelli has a passion for helping young students fall in love with school,” said principal Nancy Nasko. “In kindergarten, she readies the children for the rest of their school career. It is a critical age and she is the best at capturing young minds and getting them excited about learning, we are grateful for her service.”

NOCHE MEXICANA: WHAT A FIESTA!

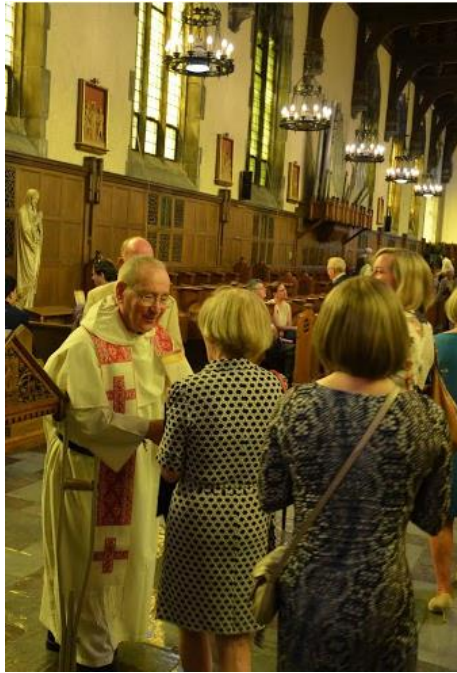
Thank you to all of the sponsors, donors, friends, and volunteers who helped make our 8th annual Noche Mexicana a huge success! We had a fantastic time raising funds for student scholarships and celebrating Ms. Abby Torres and Mrs. Nancy Nasko, both of whom recently won prestigious awards. Your generosity means more students can study at St. Pius V and benefit from a safe, excellent education. Thanks for funding the dreams of the next generation of parish leaders!

Missed the opportunity? Call 312.226-1590 to learn how you can make a world of difference by supporting the St. Pius V School scholarship fund.

Muchas gracias a todos!

WORDS OF GRATITUDE FROM FATHER CHUCK

From the bottom of my heart, I thank so many parishioners, friends, colleagues, and family who helped me celebrate my 50th anniversary of ordination. Your affection for me touched my heart. God has blessed me abundantly along my 50-year journey, and you are very special blessings for me. **Thank you** for supporting me, and contributing so generously to the Fr. Chuck Dahm Fund to empower women and families. May God bless you.



Left: Fr. Chuck Dahm, OP, greets guests at his Jubilee Mass, June 1, at the chapel of Dominican University in River Forest. Right: Fr. Chuck addresses the Catholic Theological Union 2014 graduating class in Chicago in May.

HONORED WITH A DOCTORATE!

In May Catholic Theological Union conferred an honorary doctorate of ministry degree on Fr. Chuck Dahm, OP, for his outstanding ministry to the poor and oppressed.

the poor in the bible, so I and the church must stand unconditionally with the poor.” Congratulations Fr. Chuck!

In receiving the degree, Fr. Chuck reviewed his years of ministry, beginning with university students in Bolivia, then working for peace and justice at the 8th Day Center for Justice, and finally serving Hispanic immigrants at St. Pius V. “Along the way I learned more from those I served than I could ever learn from books. The poor helped me see things from their perspective: as God demonstrated a preferential option for

THE ROSAS FAMILY, CONT’D.

hail of bullets. Miraculously, the bullet that struck Mireya passed through her body without hitting a vital organ. While in the hospital, she was concerned about informing the principal that she might miss some classes. After a few days she was back in school.

On Memorial Day weekend mother and daughter spoke publicly about the importance of programs in the faith community to curb violence. At a summer kick-off for Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s Faith and Action Initiative, Antonia expressed her gratitude for the life of her daughter. And Mireya? With her characteristic selflessness, she stood before the crowd and said, “I was so terrified. I thought I wasn’t the only one that got hit. I thought there were more.”

Speaking at the event Fr. Brendan



Fr. Brendan and Mayor Emanuel at the anti-violence event Memorial Day weekend.

Curran OP, St. Pius V’s pastor, pledged the parish’s support for the mayor’s efforts saying “Pilsen will be a model. We pledge that each and every Friday we will celebrate with block parties and join one another in prayer with Mass on the street. We commit ourselves to making our streets safe and we invite other communities to do the same.”

Later that week, at home with her parents, Mireya reflected on the values her parents share with her. She says she is “into” her faith in a way many teens aren’t because of her parents’ example and the support of the faith community at St. Pius V, and she outlined a plan for her future: a degree in social work and a lifetime of service – to give back to the community what she has received.

CASA JUAN DIEGO'S EXPANSION COMPLETED SOON!

Friends and benefactors have made possible the expansion of Casa Juan Diego, our parish center for youth programs in our community.

Thanks to you we raised more than \$650,000 to add a second floor for five classrooms, an art studio, and a computer lab. We are installing an elevator and making other improvements to make the center more accessible. Construction is scheduled to finish in time for school in the fall, when there will be a special ribbon cutting ceremony. Watch for more information.

Meanwhile our after-school and other programs continue to thrive in our temporary site at the former Holy Trinity School a few blocks east of the parish. More than 75 children have signed up to enjoy summer sports, cultural activities, and academic support.



The new HVAC system is installed in the new second story of Casa Juan Diego Youth Center at 2020 Blue Island. An elevator will make the building accessible.

Kermes 2014 a success

SUMMER FESTIVAL SHOWCASES MEXICAN CULTURE

This year's one-and-only Kermes was a great success. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the beautiful weather, rich Mexican cuisine and cultural offerings.

For the first time, the parish will host only one Kermes this year, opting to run the festival for three days and offer beer and wine to increase our revenue. We also added carnival rides and games that were very attractive to families with children, and we continued the tradition of showcasing Aztec dancers, regional music from Mexico and other cultural programming.

This year Jóvenes en Acción, the newly formed parish youth group, worked long hours making fresh fruit drinks. "I don't know how we ever managed without their help," Fr. Brendan said.

As always the car raffle was the highlight of the event. Araceli Lucio, the health coordinator at our sister agency, The Resurrection Project was the winner of the cherry red For Mustang.



Members of the parish youth group found time to work hard and clown around at the Kermes.

SUMMER IN PILSEN

We are looking forward to a good summer in the neighborhood, once again this year working with our base communities to provide a celebration of Mass on the street in some part of the neighborhood every Friday. These events are great community builders, but the also add a measure of security and safety to the streets. Thanks for supporting our efforts to keep Pilsen safe. We appreciate your ongoing help and look forward to seeing many of you at the Harvest Night in October!

Fr. Brendan Curran, OFM
Pastor

Chuck Dahm, OFM
Associate Pastor

Matthew Muller, OFM
Associate Pastor

