



**ST PIUS V  
PARISH**  
.org

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# Good News from St. Pius V

“This is the year  
we’re going to  
get it done!”



Fr. Brendan Curran, O.P., pastor of St. Pius V and Alma Silva, chair of the parish’s Social Action Committee, attend rally for immigration reform.

## St. Pius V promotes immigration reform

Despite a resistant political climate, the Catholic Church and many others continue pushing the government to focus on immigration reform. Over 100 St. Pius V parishioners joined more than 1,000 others on January 16 for an immigration reform rally at the historic First Baptist Congregational Church on Chicago’s west side. The event, in honor of Dr. King’s birthday, included diverse racial, ethnic and religious groups and addresses from Chicago’s African-American leaders, affirming their support for immigration reform. Momentum for comprehensive reform is building as U.S. Congressman Gutierrez proposed new legislation in December. St. Pius V continues to play a key role in this effort.

## Dear Friends and Families of St. Pius V,

Since 1994, when the Violence Against Women Act was signed into law, the incidence of intimate partner violence has steadily declined. Such news is heartening. It affirms the growing awareness of the problem, and the effectiveness of domestic violence services like our H.O.P.E. program at St. Pius V.

But while we are making progress, the reality is still grim: more than one in four women nationwide is a victim of domestic violence. Our H.O.P.E. counseling and group sessions continue to operate at full capacity. Last year we served 418 domestic violence victims and their children in our program. We worked with another 160 male abusers who entered our men’s program with a commitment to change. But for each one of these cases, many more remain hidden - sometimes until it’s too late.

Your support of our parish ministry is making a real difference. Thank you and please continue to help us.



St. Vincent Ferrer Parish volunteers partner with St. Pius V staff to distribute Christmas toys to 480 children; see story on page 4.

In January the parish joined a postcard campaign sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Bishops to encourage senators and congressional representatives to support immigration reform; parishioners have sent 1,300 postcards so far. For more information see [stpiusvparish.org/postcard](http://stpiusvparish.org/postcard).

## The St. Pius V Model of Domestic Violence Intervention

The staff of H.O.P.E. continue to respond to invitations from other organizations interested in responding to domestic violence in their communities.

Why so much interest? H.O.P.E. is effective. Our program works because of its professional staff and integration with other parish services: the youth center, parenting and couples classes, the food pantry and even Sunday preaching. Services are in Spanish, respect the different cultures of clients and include the entire family, whenever possible.

After his October trip to present the St. Pius V model to the Diocese of Dodge City, Kansas, Fr. Chuck received invitations to return to the Sunflower State with future talks to clergy in Great Bend and Wichita. In January, he preached at all Masses at St. Raymond Parish in Mt. Prospect. When he returned to the parish later that week for a follow-up meeting, 38 people attended, ready to start a domestic violence ministry in the parish!



Dodge City featured Fr. Chuck Dahm, O.P., in the November issue of their diocesan newspaper.

### TRP Success Awarded

As a founding parish and active member of the Resurrection Project, St. Pius V celebrates their recent successes:

Last summer, TRP opened Casa Morelos, a building with 55 affordable rental units. This spring, TRP will open *Casa Maravilla*, a housing complex in Pilsen with 72 affordable apartments for seniors 55 and over. The building includes environmentally-friendly features, a city-run senior services center and opportunities for exercise, health education and communal dining.

On November 18, Bank of America honored TRP with its Neighborhood Builders Award. CEO Raul Raymundo proudly accepted the prestigious award, which includes a \$200,000 unrestricted grant to support TRP's work.

The Chicago Community Trust conferred TRP and the Pilsen Planning Committee with the Outstanding Community Strategy of the Year Award. TRP has led the formation of the Planning Commission, which has developed plans for local schools, families and community groups. One project involved Elev8, a joint venture between TRP and Alivio Medical Center to place a clinic in Orozco Middle School, providing health care for working families.



### News from Casa Juan Diego

Our youth center, Casa Juan Diego, reports a significant jump in students' grades for the quarter ending in January. Last fall, CJD staff met with parents of every student who posted a first-quarter grade below C. Along with our regular program of tutoring and homework assistance, the extra intervention worked. No CJD student brought home a failing grade in any subject this quarter and the number of A grades increased dramatically.

One of the center's many success stories is Nelly Jiménez, a senior at Benito Juarez High School. Nelly, pictured here with her parents, won a Nordstrom Scholarship, worth \$2,500 a year for four years at any accredited college or university. Congratulations, Nelly!



These smiling moms and dads celebrated the completion of another round of parenting classes at St. Pius V in December. The 23-week course is designed for parents looking for better structure in their relationships with their children and a stronger foundation of discipline and love in the home. The highly popular course, part of St. Pius V's Healthy Families program, fills up every term simply through word-of-mouth referrals. In January the latest course began with 35 participants.

# Spotlight on St. Pius V School

In a neighborhood where the public schools struggle and, sadly, half of all Hispanic students fail to finish 12th-grade, St. Pius V School stands out. We send our graduates to the best Catholic and selective enrollment high schools in the area. In a community plagued by violence, we are known for respectful students, a safe and nurturing school environment and our famous Peacemaker Awards.

As we write these words, our 8th-graders are receiving wonderful news about their high school applications. Every St. Pius V 8th-grader who tested at a Catholic high school has been accepted into that school - many of them with honors! This amazing feat speaks to the quality of our teachers, principal and curriculum and, of course, to the hard work of our students and the support of their families.

## Technology in the Classrooms

With no room for a dedicated space, our school uses laptops to bring the "computer lab" into the classrooms. Also, thanks to the Big Shoulders Fund and the Kazma Family Foundation, eight of ten classrooms now have Promethean boards (interactive, online, computerized white



boards). The older boards were re-fitted to match the newer ones, giving our teachers the best tools to educate our children.

## Lent at St. Pius V School

Another tradition here is the 8th-graders' leadership of our Lenten observance. The class plans and leads the activities of the season, including a creative dramatization of the Way of Cross each Friday afternoon. The children have a goal to raise \$1,000 for an orphanage in Indonesia and already has \$378 from their February 16 bake sale. These efforts set an excellent example for our younger students - and keep the 8th-graders focused on walking with Christ during the final months before their June 5 graduation.

## Janine Markowicz Honored for Service

In January, the Office of Catholic Schools named Janine Markowicz, our fifth-grade teacher and assistant principal,

a "Distinguished Service Awardee" for 2010. She was one of 25 recipients chosen from among the 5,300 educators in the Archdiocese's 255 Catholic schools. Ms. Markowicz began at St. Pius V 21 years ago. "I walked in here," she said, recalling her first visit to the school, "and it was home!"



Principal Nancy Nasko nominated Ms. Markowicz for her extraordinary work ethic, great sense of humor and deep concern for students, parents and colleagues. The Archdiocese honored Ms. Markowicz and the other awardees at a February 21 dinner at the Chicago Marriott.

## Haiti Project

Around 85 percent of our school's children come from families whose household income is low enough to qualify them for the federal free or reduced lunch program. Yet, they and their families always respond generously when others need help. After the disastrous earthquake in Haiti, the 4th-grade class, with help from the 5th-graders, organized a school-wide collection to assist the victims of the tragedy. The students went to each classroom, gave a short presentation on the work of Catholic Relief Services and then asked their school-mates to make a donation. The final numbers are still being tallied, but over \$600 has already been raised by these generous children.



*DePaul University places many of its work-study students in non-profit organizations, including Catholic schools. St. Pius V is blessed with the services of seven such students including the four pictured above: (l-r) Kristina Griffin, Annie Scholl, Emmanuel Garcia and Maria Galvan. Not pictured: Annette Carreon, Courtney Mays and Deborah Mercandante. The DePaul students assist teachers and staff and serve as outstanding role models for the children of St. Pius V.*

## You Put the *Feliz* in *Navidad!*

Every December benefactors of St. Pius V go beyond themselves in supporting the ministries of the parish. This year, despite a struggling economy, our friends were particularly generous. To all who sent cards, notes, donations and prayers, we deeply appreciate your generosity!

A wonderful December tradition is our Christmas Store. Every year a group of generous friends from our sister parish, St. Vincent Ferrer in River Forest, donates toys and gift cards for parish families in need. St. Pius V staff identify active families unable to provide Christmas presents to their children to participate in the program.

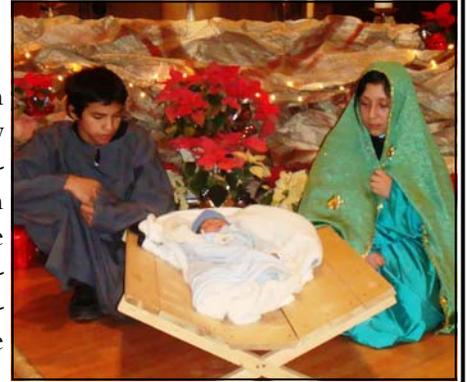
This year, 161 families came to select toys for their 480 children. Left-over toys were given to 300 children in our religious education program on the feast of the Three Kings. Many thanks to our generous benefactors who made Christmas brighter for almost 800 children!



Some of the 510 children in this year's religious education program wait to present roses during the annual *Our Lady of Guadalupe* celebration on Dec. 8.

Yes, that is  
a real baby...

Mary and Joseph watch over Baby Jesus in the religious education program's Three Kings event, complete with a dramatization of the Christmas story.



## We Extend Our Deepest Gratitude...

... to the women and men of these organizations and businesses for sharing toys, gift cards, meals, volunteer time and other donations this Christmas season:

- American GI Forum - Midwest Chapter
- Chicagoland Toys for Tots
- Moreno Produce
- Panama Produce
- Pilsen World Gym
- St. Giles Parish
- St. Vincent Ferrer Parish

## You're Invited to *Noche Mexicana!*

Thursday, April 29, 2010, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
at Zocalo Restaurant and Tequila Bar  
358 W. Ontario in Chicago

\$75 per person, includes all food and open bar  
Proceeds benefit the children of St. Pius V School  
For more information call (312) 226-6161 or  
buy tickets online at [stpiusvparish.org/noche](http://stpiusvparish.org/noche)

## *Thank you!*

We thank you for your continued support of the individuals and families served by St. Pius V Parish. Your generosity makes it possible for us to reach those most in need. May this holy season of Lent be a time of renewal and blessing for you and all of God's people.

Brendan Curran, O.P.  
Pastor

*Brendan O.P.*

Charles W. Dahm, O.P.  
Associate Pastor

*Chuck*

Matthias Mueller, O.P.  
Associate Pastor

*Matthias Mueller, O.P.*

