



Good News from St. Pius V

Assisting Other Parishes

St. Pius V staff continues to help other parishes, particularly in the areas of developing domestic violence ministries and training community leaders.

Domestic Violence

In January, Fr. Chuck preached at all the Sunday Masses at St. Mary of the Woods, St. Edmund and Precious Blood parishes, and then formed a group of volunteers in each parish to develop a ministry to victims of domestic violence. In March, he will do similar work in St. Pascal and St. Thomas the Apostle parishes.

In January, the staff conducted a day-long workshop on domestic violence for 130 seminarians and six faculty at the Chicago archdiocesan seminary in Mundelein. This was the first in-depth teaching on this subject for the seminary and a major step forward in sensitizing the clergy to violence against women. The seminarians represented 46 dioceses around the country and globe.

Strengthening Families

Our family support program continues to partner with Family Bridges, a coalition of Chicago area organizations that serves to strengthen couples to build stronger families, particularly among Hispanics and African-Americans. Through the partnership, our staff, led by director Dolores



Fr. Chuck preaches on domestic violence at St. Mary of the Woods parish.

Tapia, are reaching out to local schools, including Benito Juarez high school, to educate adolescents in forming healthy relationships.

Preparing Lay People for Community Leadership

The staff also launched lay leadership training courses in two parishes, St. Joseph and Our Lady of Tepeyac, as well as another in a public school in Back of the Yards. Taught by Fr. Chuck and staff member Alma Silva, these courses develop leaders to strengthen parish ministries. Alma is a graduate of the original courses taught at St. Pius V three years ago. They also reinforce a network of parishes and community groups organized by The Resurrection Project to work on social problems in the community.



St. Pius V's family counselor Carlos Lopez discusses the cycle of violence with Mundelein seminarians.

St. Pius V Parish Kermes Cadillac Escalade Raffle



Sunday, June 10, 2012
Drawing at 10:00 pm
Tickets: \$5.00
Information: (312) 226-6161



Enter to win a luxurious, like-new Cadillac Escalade! Thanks to a generous donor, all proceeds support the mission of St. Pius V.



St. Pius V School Pride

Our School Partners with Local Institutions

In the fall we wrote about our students receiving a year-long training in non-violence from Marquette University's Center for Peace Building and trainings in developing students' "executive function" from Rush University Medical Center. Now we report that after practicing all fall with teaching artists from the Joffrey Ballet, our 1st-graders performed for fellow students, parents and friends in December. This opportunity, thanks to the Big Shoulders Fund, introduced our little ones to multiple forms of dance and movement taught by professionals.



Also, Junior Achievement, a non-profit organization that teaches young people financial literacy, taught grades 1-8 once a week for six weeks in the fall. Through experiential learning students studied real business problems and skills for work readiness and entrepreneurship.

Noche Mexicana

On May 3, *Noche Mexicana*, our school's biggest annual fundraiser, returns to Carnivale. You can help by being our guest, a donor or an event sponsor. Have some extra baseball tickets you won't be using? They would be perfect for our Silent Auction! For more information please call us at (312) 226-1590 or go to saintpiusv.org/noche.

Reaching Out to Alumni

Because our school is proud of our graduates, we work hard to stay in touch with them. On February 15, we gathered alumni, parents and other friends of the school at Simone's in Pilsen. Over 40 guests gathered for food and drink with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the children of our school. To stay in touch with other alumni as well as current school families visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/saintpiusv.

Students Pay Tribute to Peacemakers

The Peacemaker awards ceremony is a signature event of St. Pius V School. Children nominate and select two students from each grade to receive the award in recognition of the



Peacemakers from pre-school thru 8th-grade, proudly display their medals along with principal Nancy Nasko and Fr. Chuck.

positive, peaceful example they set for their peers.

On Martin Luther King's birthday we celebrated this year's awardees by presenting each with a medal while a classmate read aloud a personal tribute. Here is a sampling of our students' nomination essays:

- "Kamila and Emmanuel always stand up for what is right, so that everyone can have peace. They are careful with words and don't say mean things. They are kind and try to stop bullying." (1st-graders)
- "Jessica helps us if we lose a pet or a family member. She is always honest with everyone.... She is the perfect peacemaker." (4th-grader)
- "Carlos was chosen...because out of 21 kids in our class he was the most noble, caring, peaceful, thoughtful, patient and funniest kid of all." (7th-grader)

St. Pius V 8th Grade Teacher Honored

The Catholic Schools Office honored Mark Zacek with the Distinguished Service Award, the second St. Pius V teacher in four years to receive the prestigious honor (with Janine Markowicz). With his classroom energy, emphasis on servant-leadership and guidance of everything from safety patrol to Spirit Day, Mark is a driving force. 8th graders greatly appreciate his guidance in gaining acceptance at the best Catholic and other select high schools.



Gifts, Giving and Guadalupe: December at St. Pius V

On behalf of the hundreds of struggling families who came to us in December, we thank all our generous benefactors for the special donations of food, clothing or financial assistance. You made it possible for us to provide toys for children, a little extra food for Christmas dinners and warm clothes for people in need in the winter.

Guadalupe Novena

The December 12 feast of the patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, is a high point of activity at St. Pius V. Our people spend a year preparing for a celebration that includes singing, dancing, *marachi*, Masses through the night and day and abundant sharing of food.

A group within our parish, *Los Guadalupanos*, is dedicated

(Below) Gifts and Santa brighten Christmas for this grateful family.



(Above) Volunteers from St. Vincent Ferrer parish stand by the toys they donate, sort and distribute to parish families.

specifically to organizing this celebration. They sell food on Sundays throughout the year to raise money for the decorations, food and music on December 12. The nine days before the feast, the novena, also involve rosaries, Masses, music and food every evening in our church. This year Fr. Jesús Eduardo Neri, pastor of the cathedral parish of St. James the Apostle in Coahuila, Mexico, was the guest preacher and leader of the novena.

Las Posadas

In most of Latin America, Christmas is preceded by nine days of prayer and *fiesta*. The *Posadas* invite participants to reflect on the journey of Mary and Joseph to find a suitable shelter to bring Jesus into the world. The novena is a perfect time for our community to celebrate and reflect on our own journeys and struggles, especially as immigrants.



Each night of the *Posadas* volunteers portray Mary and Joseph in search of shelter.

Christmas Store

Among our generous benefactors this Christmas, people from our sister parish, St. Vincent Ferrer, stand out. They organize a toy drive and a "Christmas store" in our parish hall every year. Our volunteers helped these friends distribute toys and gift cards to 488 children in our community! It all took place in a festive atmosphere complete with music, goodie bags and photos with Santa Claus.



Fr. Brendan: Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow

Our pastor, Fr. Brendan Curran is a Class of 2012 Fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago, an organization that creates partnerships and community awareness among a select group of Chicago leaders.

"It's been a wonderful opportunity to meet upcoming professionals while learning more about what makes Chicago tick," said Fr. Brendan. "The year long process also provides us with the opportunity to get out the good news about St. Pius V." Our parish appeared in the 2012 LGC Program Report with a photo of Fr. Chuck leading the program's tour of Pilsen last year.

Parish Welcomes New Domestic Violence Counselor

In December our H.O.P.E. program said goodbye to a long-time and beloved staff member, Noemi Sofia, who retired and moved back near her family in Argentina.

Taking her place as a domestic violence counselor is Virginia Jung. A native southsider, Virginia is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, has an M.A. in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola University and is fluent in Spanish. She most recently worked at St. Leonard's Ministries providing counseling for women transitioning out of prison.



News from Casa Juan Diego

First a Flood...

A city water main broke near 21st Street and Blue Island Avenue on December 19, inundating sidewalks, streets and basements throughout several blocks of Pilsen. Unfortunately our parish youth center, Casa Juan Diego, was not spared. A few inches of water was enough to destroy books, computers, files and supplies.

Fortunately no structural damage occurred, the physical loss was limited and our insurance covered nearly everything. The damage disrupted our programs for a few weeks but did not close the center. By mid-January things were back to normal.

...then a Rainbow

January brought two significant grants to support Casa Juan Diego. The Field Foundation donated \$50,000 for the expansion of Casa Juan Diego which will add classrooms and other facilities this summer. Our capital campaign (below) now has realized \$360,000 toward our goal of \$500,000.



Nothing could dampen the spirits of these three Casa Juan Diego students waiting patiently for the Christmas party to begin on December 20.

Another local funder, the Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation, donated \$20,000 to Casa Juan Diego for the development of a library space and the purchase of additional books. This foundation, which supports quality education for underserved populations, also pledged additional support over the next four years.



Second Floor Expansion

Casa Juan Diego continues to seek support for our capital expansion scheduled to begin this summer. The center currently has a second floor covering only half of the available space over the first floor. The completion of



that second floor along with renovations on the first floor, expanded rest rooms and installation of an elevator will allow us to double our capacity and serve up to 150 students with after-school and summer programs.

For more information on how to help please contact Fr. Chuck Dahm at (312) 226-6161 or Casa Juan Diego Program Director Jenny O'Neil at (312) 421-7647.

Dates to Remember!

Noche Mexicana - May 3
St. Pius V School Fundraiser
saintpiusv.org/noche

Summer Kermes - June 9&10
Fall Kermes - September 1&2
Parish Street Festivals

Celebrating the Harvest - October 27
Parish Awards Banquet
stpiusvparish.org/harvest

Thank you!

During this Lenten season we are called to prayer, sacrifice and remembering those around us who are in need. We offer prayers of thanks for the many ways your sacrifices have benefited the many families who come to our door in need. May this special time lead to an Easter celebration of new life for us all.

Many blessings to you and your loved ones!

Brendan Curran, O.P.
Pastor

Charles W. Dahm, O.P.
Associate Pastor

Matthias Mueller, O.P.
Associate Pastor

