



# GOOD NEWS ST. PIUS V PARISH



School news on page 2.

St. Pius V Parish | 1919 South Ashland Avenue | Chicago, Illinois 60608 | Fall 2016

## “RENEW MY CHURCH” – CHRIST’S CALL, OUR RESPONSE

### WE EVANGELIZE OUR COMMUNITY WITH CREATIVITY AND BOLDNESS

In various ways over the last two years, Archbishop Blase Cupich has called on the church of Chicago to respond to the changing realities and needs of our local communities.



This summer a crew repaired and painted the emergency stairs on the outside of our school’s east building.

Just as Francis of Assisi heard the words of Christ to “rebuild my church,” Archbishop Cupich reminds us that we are to respond to this same call. “Renew My Church” has been the theme of an archdiocesan-wide effort to look creatively and

boldly at how we use our resources and how we evangelize our communities.

In recent issues of this newsletter, we have shared how St. Pius V went through a planning process with the five other parishes of Pilsen. While our parish has emerged intact and the other five are now functioning as two parishes we are all working together cooperatively in new ways to carry on our collective mission.

#### EVANGELIZATION AS RENEWAL

“Evangelization involves not only going out to others, bringing Christ’s love to people outside of our church,” explains Fr. Jose Santiago, pastor, “but it starts with ourselves. Evangelization begins with realizing how the Holy Spirit is active within each of us individually and as a parish. And then we go out and share this Good News and renew Christ’s church.”

Francis of Assisi first responded literally to Christ’s words and he began to physically rebuild the church building. Later, he realized this divine call was bigger and wider;



Community members like the Noyola family—and hundreds of families and individuals like them—are our parish’s greatest resource as we respond to Christ’s call for renewal.

it was a call to renew the universal church.

In a similar way our St. Pius V parish faces both physical and spiritual challenges in renewing our church. Last fall we began with the physical, addressing some major maintenance issues and building repairs that were long overdue.

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“I dream of a ‘missionary option,’ that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

“The Joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis



#### NEW PLANS FOR PARISH BANQUET!

As St. Pius V embarks on a year of evangelization and renewal, our parish leadership has decided to replace our annual fall awards banquet with a new event in the spring.

There will be no Celebrating the Harvest, as was tentatively planned for October, but look for an exciting initiative during the Easter season in 2017. You can lend your support to this new event by contacting the parish: 312-226-6161.



## ST. PIUS V SCHOOL GROWS WITH ADDITIONAL SPACE AND RESOURCES

The silence of summer ended on August 22 when our school family welcomed students for the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year!

This year brings expansion and new resources for our school. Over the summer,



St. Pius V students joined others from around the Archdiocese at a summer science camp sponsored by the Big Shoulders Fund.

the offices of HOPE at St. Pius V, the parish's counseling and family support program, moved a block east to the Casa Juan Diego building (see the article on the next page) allowing our school to use space on the second floor of our west building.

The expansion gives us a fine arts room for music and art classes, a library, a resource room for students and staff, and two counseling rooms. Next we will add a



A reorganization of parish offices has given our school room to expand to the brighter and more spacious second floor above the 5th- through 7th-grade classrooms. This past summer we added a library (with a large donation of books!), resource center, and fine arts room.

computer drop-in center as an additional resource for our students.

Last spring our school lost a long-time friend and benefactor, Dr. Chris Carger, a professor of education at Northern Illinois University, who died unexpectedly in

March. In June her husband Jim directed an extraordinary donation of a truck-load of books and educational items for our school. This generosity made a positive impact on our entire school and provided a huge boost to our new library.

### SCIENCE CAMP

In mid-August six students and a teacher from St. Pius V School enjoyed a taste of the West with a wonderful science education opportunity through

Staddle Camp at Brush Creek Ranch in southern Wyoming. This trip—an annual event—is made possible by the generosity of the Big Shoulders Fund.

Our students conducted science experiments and enhanced their analytical skills through hands-on experiences led by local nature and wildlife experts. They also enjoyed horseback riding, river rafting, rock climbing, zip-lining, and more.



“Staddle Camp is where students learn by doing,” says 7th-grade teacher Marie Drake, who led the St. Pius V contingent. “The camp experience opened the students up to a new way of thinking about the relationship between nature and themselves.

“They had a wonderful time,” she adds. “For some students the trip was the first time they had been in an airplane!”

### WE WELCOME A NEW TEACHER

Our school is happy to welcome Melissa Talaber, a 2014 Golden Apple excellence in teaching honoree, as our new 6th-grade teacher.



Melissa Talaber, a Golden Apple honoree with a Masters in Education, joins our school family as our new 6th-grade teacher.

Melissa earned a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and a Master of Education in Secondary Instructional Leadership, both from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

We are excited to have Melissa join our school family where more than half of our faculty members have advanced degrees.

## HOPE FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM MOVES TO CASA JUAN DIEGO BUILDING

The counselors of our HOPE family services program moved their offices a block east from the main parish office into our Casa Juan Diego building at 2020 South Blue Island Avenue this July.

With a street-level entrance and a more spacious and comfortable reception area, the move makes these important services much more accessible to the community.

The building was extensively renovated less than two years ago and includes an elevator and accessible restrooms among other updated features.

Our counselors serve hundreds of individuals and families each year with bilingual,

culturally-sensitive services for domestic violence victims and their children plus weekly groups for women, parents, couples, children, youth, people facing depression, and men who have abused and are turning away from violence.

For more information, HOPE staff can be reached at 312-421-7647.



The staff of our family services program, HOPE at St. Pius V, moved to the recently renovated Casa Juan Diego building.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION KICKS OFF

Our parish's thriving religious education program kicked off a new year in September with almost 300 students in classes for children offered in English and Spanish. Approximately 70



teens are in the new two-year Confirmation preparation classes, and 50 children and adults with disabilities are served in the SPRED program.

Another 15 adult participants are preparing for the Easter Sacraments through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults this year.

The program is led by Jose Chavez, our parish director of religious education.



We are grateful to all who support this ministry, especially the dozens of volunteer catechists and assistants who form our people in the faith!

## PARISH GROUP TRAVELS TO SHRINE

Our Older Adults group enjoyed an outing to Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine in Des Plaines on August 19.

Parishioners and staff formed the Older Adults group a year ago to better support and serve a growing population within our parish. The group meets monthly for fellowship, educational opportunities, field trips, and more.

For more information, call our parish office at 312-226-6161.



## RENEW MY CHURCH, CONTINUED

*continued from page 1* “Just a few weeks after I arrived last summer,” said Fr. Jose, “our church roof lost shingles in several places and we had to replace them immediately or risk further damage from water. Since then we’ve addressed several other major maintenance and repair issues to



Winds ripped shingles off the church roof in several locations last September. A generous donor helped us to make repairs immediately.

keep our buildings safe and aesthetically pleasing.

“Thankfully we have had generous donors to support all the repairs up until now,” he added. “But much more work needs to be done.”

In addition to the roof repairs, significant work was done on the ventilation system of the kitchen in the parish hall. In the past, stove and oven exhaust passed through the kitchen itself and the smoke

and grease caused damage to other equipment and appliances—not to mention the effects on people nearby. A crew installed two large ventilation units—for air intake and exhaust—in the alley-facing wall of the kitchen with an extensive system of fans and vents near the cooking area.

Another safety and aesthetic concern was the condition of the exterior fire-escape stairs on the east building of our parish school. The metal steps were bent and loose and their connections to the building were in need of strengthening.

Workers welded and secured the stairs and painted them.

Also in the east building of the school, an old boiler was replaced with a new model and temperature controls were installed in each classroom. Our children and teachers

in this four-story building will feel the effects in the winter when they realize the days of extreme hot and cold classroom

temperatures are now over.

“We are off to a good start,” says Fr. Jose, “but we have much left to do. The large chimney and the back wall of

the church against the alley are in serious need of attention. We have tuck-pointing to do there and in the front of the church.

“Parishioners have asked consistently to improve the lighting and appearance of the interior of our church. We have additional work to do in the parish hall and the storage spaces. Some of our buildings are over 100 years old and all are at least 50 years old. We want to keep them looking good and safely serving our faith community.”

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**“By having the boldness to leave behind familiar ways of doing things, we can seize this season as one that is not simply of loss, but rather of renewal.... This is the pathway of people on the move, of immigrants who pursue their dreams, inspired by their faith.”**

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**“Renew My Church,” Archbishop Blase Cupich**

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## YOUR DONATION COUNTS!

You can support our call for renewal through a gift to St. Pius V parish. Help us to live out our mission to bring the transforming love of the Risen Christ to our community and our world.

Please consider a donation using the enclosed envelope or safely and securely online at:

[stpiousvparish.org/donate](http://stpiousvparish.org/donate)

Thank you!



Thanks to our benefactors, our parish was able to replace an ineffective fan (left) in our parish hall kitchen, with a safe and effective ventilation system (middle and right). In addition to special events, the kitchen is used every weekday for school lunch service, three times a week for the parish soup kitchen, every Sunday for post-Mass meals, and for many other events.