



Volume 7, Issue 3

Good News from St. Pius V

Fall 2013

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Investing in families

The Resurrection Project Transforms Foreclosed Homes

In early August The Resurrection Project (TRP), our economic development corporation, celebrated the completion of a \$13.7 million project that created 75 units of affordable housing on 40 lots in the Back of the Yards neighborhood, just south of St. Pius V. Many of these properties involved foreclosed homes that TRP rehabbed and either sold or is renting.

The project, funded by HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2), addressed areas distressed by foreclosure resulting from the 2008 housing bubble. TRP, founded in our Pilsen neighborhood in 1990,

started working in Back of the Yards in 2000. We first built the Paolo Freire Daycare Center there and then rehabbed several apartment buildings for affordable rentals. When the great recession hit, the problems of unemployment, poverty, gang violence and drugs were aggravated by countless foreclosures and homes "underwater."

The interesting part about this story is not the bricks and mortar. Rather, it is the families that call this housing home and the neighbors that no longer have to look at blighted foreclosed buildings. We recognize that the true assets of our communities are families.



Fr. Chuck Dahm, OP, TRP President, is joined by TRP CEO, Raul Raymundo, (left) and Back of the Yards residents for a blessing of the new affordable housing in Back of the Yards.

Join us on October 26!

Reserve Your Table Now for *Celebrating the Harvest!*

Now is the time to reserve your sponsorship of St. Pius V's *Celebrating the Harvest Awards Banquet and Silent Auction*. The annual event is scheduled for Saturday, October 26 in the Church Hall.

Formal invitations to St. Pius V's biggest fundraiser will be in the mail in early September. Now is a great time to choose a sponsorship level, purchase a table, or make a donation to the silent auction.

Early birds may also purchase individual tickets now at www.stpiusvparish.org/harvest.



CELEBRATING THE HARVEST
TRANSFORMING LIVES

Follow the link to the *Celebrating the Harvest* website for access to a secure online form that makes supporting our ministries easy.

"St. Pius V School's enrollment is up, we have added an additional counselor to the staff to meet the needs of couples and families, and we are constructing a second floor at Casa Juan Diego Youth Center so we can expand services to the community," Fr. Brendan said. "We give thanks for all of these blessings, and we invite you to celebrate them with us."

St. Pius V Goes Back-to-School, and Religious Education

Enrollment Continues to Rise at St. Pius V School

For the fourth consecutive year, St. Pius V School has recorded an enrollment increase. “Parents, and children already enrolled in the school are our best advertisement,” said school principal Nancy Nasko. “Our school community is thriving and growing. I’m looking forward to another year of learning with these great kids and families.”

Some of these new students are from “legacy families” – second generation St. Pius V students whose parents also attended the school. There are 36 legacy students enrolled this year, a new record in recent years.

St. Pius V Alums: We’re looking for you!

The school Facebook page passed the 500th “like” milestone recently, making the social media platform an important tool for communicating with students, parents, alumni, and friends.

“A growing number of alumni like to check in with us on Facebook, making ‘Flashback Fridays’ one of our most popular posts,” said school marketing director Kurt Lewis, referring to the vintage photos he often posts on Friday afternoons. Mr. Lewis encourages all St. Pius V School alumni to visit facebook.com/saintpiusv and the school’s website, www.saintpiusv.org/alumni to let us know what you have been up to since you left St. Pius V School.

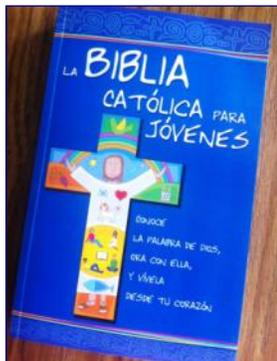


Angela Mendez, class of 1997, with two of her three children who currently attend St. Pius V School. This year there are 36 students whose parents attended the school before them.

Religious Education

Bibles for Kids: A Life-long Spiritual Practice

Put a Bible in a child’s hands and watch what happens. Eight-year-olds find their own way around the Gospels, reveling in their ability to locate stories about Jesus by book, chapter, and verse. They learn Jesus’ message by play-acting, drawing pictures, or putting themselves into the story. Gradually, they grow in their empathy for others, as did one boy, who after reading the story of the prodigal son, wondered aloud why the son did not think about his father’s feelings before he took off with the inheritance.



For these reasons Sr. Phyllis Supancheck, OP, the St. Pius V director of religious formation, began last year to purchase Bibles for the 400 students who participate in religious education at the parish each year. Sr. Phyllis knows that reading and praying with scripture is an es-

sential spiritual practice, and that one of the primary goals of any religious education program is to form students for a lifetime of faithfulness to the message of Jesus. She says that when students get their scripture in small excerpts printed in their textbooks they do not clearly understand that what they are reading from their books is the Bible, and is what they hear proclaimed at Mass on Sundays.

To assure that the students’ Bibles are available for class every week, they are kept at the parish. When the children complete their program, the Bibles go home with them.

“Every year there are about 150 students whose parents cannot afford the cost of a Bible,” Sister Phyllis explained. “We provide the Bibles anyway, but the cost adds up.” At \$35 per Bible, it is a big investment for the parish.

Want to help? You can support the spiritual growth of our students by donating the cost of one, or several, children’s Bibles. Your generosity is most welcome. Checks may be made payable to St. Pius V Parish, with the word “Bibles” on the memo line. Thank you.

This fall, Fr. Chuck, Director of Domestic Violence Outreach for the Archdiocese of Chicago,

Organizing against Domestic Violence

will preach on domestic violence and form parish committees to raise awareness about domestic violence in parishes. Visit www.stpiusvparish.org to learn more about his work.

Fr Chuck’s Preaching Schedule

- Sept. 9
 - St. Thaddeus, Chicago
- Sept. 14-15
 - Divine Infant, Westchester
- Sept. 21-22
 - St. Mary, Riverside
- Oct. 12-13
 - Sacred Heart, Tinley Park
- Nov. 2-3
 - St. Norbert, Northbrook

New Partners Bring Valuable Service to Parish, Pilsen Community

St. Pius V has recently partnered with two organizations to bring additional services to our community. Both organizations offer their programs at our parish youth center, Casa Juan Diego.

The Tolton Center

Founded by the De La Salle Institute in 1991, Tolton provides excellent alternative adult education and family literacy sessions in the mornings four days a week in five low-income communities of Chicago, including Pilsen.

The Center enables economically disadvantaged adults to break the illiteracy cycle by improving their reading, writing, math, and analytical skills in the ABE/GED program so they can complete their education and effectively enter a labor market which requires them to continue learning. The curriculum emphasizes real life situations and contextualizes learning through discussions and lessons which explore possible solutions.

While the adults are advancing their learning, Tolton provides their children under the age of 5-age-appropriate sessions in language development. Thus, parents and children learn together, totally free.

Dorothy Stang Popular Education Adult High School

Named after Sr. Dorothy Stang, a sister of Notre Dame de Namur, who was brutally murdered in Brazil in 2005 for

her work defending peasants, the high school serves predominantly Spanish speaking adults who want to obtain a state-certified high school diploma and break out of low paying jobs. It is the only bilingual high school completion program serving Latino adults, ages 25 or older, in the Midwest. Some graduates go on to study in community colleges while others have started their own businesses. An all-volunteer faculty makes it

possible for students to pay no tuition and only small fees for materials. In the evenings, Dorothy Stang operates at Casa Juan Diego.

Thus, Casa Juan Diego has a full house: parents and small children learning in the mornings with Tolton, students in after-school being academically tutored and learning dance, art and music through Casa Juan Diego, and adults studying in the evenings for their Dorothy Stang high school diploma. Thanks be to God for these partners.



Dorothy Stang High School students will receive a their diplomas upon completion of the program.

Staff Profile: Dulce Cira Joins Family Counseling Staff

The first day of Dulce Cira's internship at St. Pius V was a staff lunch day. When she observed the chaos of all staff enjoying a meal together before the meeting, she said to herself, "This is perfect!" It was so perfect that the internship led to her full time employment with HOPE at St. Pius V as a family counselor. She began July 1.

While completing a bachelor's degree in social work at Trinity Christian College, the East Los Angeles native wanted an internship that would allow her to work directly with children. When she was placed at St. Pius V and realized she would be working with whole-families, she wondered whether that would get her to her goal of improving children's lives. Now she views things differently.

"I can see the importance of an entire family system to the child's wellbeing," she explains. "Before I started the

internship I thought I'd be doing case management, helping to link clients to the resources they needed. But the first time I counseled a couple and realized the impact

that this would have on the children in that family, I thought 'This is awesome!'"

Dulce has enjoyed seeing the transformation a few counseling sessions bring for her clients. "When couples come to us with a problem, they have a sense that the problem is the biggest thing in their lives, that it has control over them. In reality, as soon as they realize that they need help, they have begun to gain control," she explains.

What are the signs that a couple's relationship is healthy? One important sign, Dulce says, is that both parties feel they are being heard by the other. For a list of Dulce's seven "Be-attitudes" for healthy relationships visit www.stpiusvparish.org/CouplesBe. Welcome Dulce!



Dulce Cira started at St. Pius V as a student intern from Trinity College and now is a full-time counselor.

Camping Trip Strengthens a Nonviolent Community of Justice

In 1997, a group of women and men who had gone through the HOPE domestic violence and family ministries program at St. Pius V came together and formed a support group. These couples had grown through the counseling and education of our staff and found a way to support one another in living out what they had learned.

Sixteen years later, this group has grown and is still going strong. They have become like a family, caring for one another in sickness and loss and celebrating birthdays, baptisms, graduations and other life events.

A few years ago, the group started an annual weekend camping trip to deepen their time together, get away from the city, and help their children get to know one another. They carefully planned the weekends, allowing for fun, spiritual growth, emotional bonding and even special care for couples who needed some time alone. Many couples had never camped before and it gave them a chance to learn from their peers.

This year, 18 families traveled to Wisconsin for the

camping weekend July 12-14. They spent days organizing the trip, preparing food, and sharing tasks. For three beautiful summer days they cooked, ate, laughed, prayed, played, swam, roasted marshmallows, and spent time relishing nature and enjoying and supporting one another.

These camping couples embody the best of HOPE at St. Pius V: through faith, mutual support, education, and hard work, couples grow in understanding, love and respect, which strengthen their families and inspire a community of peace and justice.

A birthday celebration in the midst of the family support group's annual camp outing.



Do we have your email?

If not, you are missing the photos, news, and updates that we send to our friends electronically.

Drop us a line: contact@stpiusvparish.org
Get connected now!



The Pilsen street Mass tradition includes an annual celebration of St. Pius V with neighboring parishes. Here auxiliary Bishop Alberto Rojas presides over a celebration at "El Zocalo," the plaza in front of The Resurrection Project headquarters.

¡Muchas Gracias!

This is the perfect way to express our thanks to you for your ongoing encouragement and generous support for our work at St. Pius V. We cannot thank you enough for the way your dollars help us to serve the children in our programs, the couples who turn to us for support, and the hungry people who line up at our door for a meal or groceries four days a week. Many thanks. *Muchas gracias*. Blessings to you and your families.

Fr. Brendan Curran, O.P.
Brendan Curran, O.P.
Pastor

Chuck Dahm, O.P.
Charles W. Dahm, O.P.
Associate Pastor

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

