



# GOOD NEWS ST. PIUS V PARISH



See story on page 3.

St. Pius V Parish | 1919 South Ashland Avenue | Chicago, Illinois 60608 | Winter 2015

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

### PARISH FRIENDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

At the heart of the Christmas story is a young woman's yes to a Divine call. Mary responded affirmatively to God's plan to send the Prince of Peace into our world.

As a friend of St. Pius V parish, you also have said yes - your generosity supports our parish mission of welcoming, teaching, and transforming lives.

You have helped to empower people like Alejandra Lemus, an alum of our after-school program at Casa Juan Diego and now a student at Northern Illinois University. Alejandra attended elementary school in the Brighton Park neighborhood but in fourth-grade she began struggling. Her mom's limited English and her dad's need to work late hours to support the family made it difficult for her to find help - until they discovered Casa Juan Diego.

"We went to visit," Alejandra remembers. "And although it was rather far from my school the effort to get there was really worth it.

"Being a part of Casa Juan Diego was a huge blessing," she says. "I felt comfortable right away and the staff was always willing to help and listen to me. I made friends quickly and that interaction helped me grow in different ways."

Four years at CJD helped Alejandra get into Lane Tech and then DeKalb, where she's studying to be a speech language pathologist.

At CJD she also learned that "I like helping people," she says. She was mentored by staff and volunteers who modeled community service and leadership and supported those qualities in her.

Alejandra returned to CJD last year as a volunteer through the One Summer Chicago program and stayed on as a part-time instructor through the school year.

"Working for Casa helped me grow, gain confidence in myself and be more organized," she reports. "And the children taught me so much about the person that I want to keep growing into."

Many thanks to you, the friends of St. Pius V parish, for your generosity this year. You have made it possible for Alejandra and hundreds of other



children, youth, and families to find the support they need to succeed in school, overcome domestic violence, feed and clothe their families, strengthen their marriages, keep their children close, and build better communities.

We invite you to consider an end-of-year gift to the mission of St. Pius V parish of welcoming, teaching, transforming lives. Your support allows us to continue to serve and empower the lives of so many people in need.

May this season of Emmanuel, God-with-us, fill your lives with grace and peace!

Gratefully yours,

*Fr. José M. Santiago, O.P.*  
Pastor

*Fr. Charles W. Dahm, O.P.*  
Associate Pastor



Casa Juan Diego helped Alejandra Lemus (second from left) succeed in elementary school and go on to Lane Tech and Northern Illinois. And it nourished her spirit of service!

**WELCOMING. TEACHING. TRANSFORMING LIVES**



## LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE AND THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Service has long been part of our school's faith-based experience but this year in particular we have incorporated service-learning more into our curriculum.

Among other projects this fall, our entire school participated in a food and toiletries drive organized by the fourth-grade class and their teacher, Colin Garrity.

"We started this service-learning project in November to be part of the Thanksgiving Mass," Colin explained. "We chose to collect food for the [parish] food pantry and toiletries for the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton."

The students made posters for the hallways and went to each classroom to read a short speech about the project. Every few days they re-visited the classrooms to collect and sort donations.

"We ended up with about 550 total items donated," Colin added. "We used categories and numbers to learn how to make a bar graph. The kids wrote a re-

lection on their experience. They learned how much work it takes to organize something that helps others and more about the lives of the people who receive these donations."

### ALL SAINTS DAY

The multi-cultural diversity of our school is a gift we celebrate year-round but especially in early November. Our classrooms incorporate the Latin American traditions of El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) in keeping with the cultural heritage of most of our students.

We also mark All Saints and All Souls days with an annual prayer service for the school that includes our 6th-graders working with students in Early Education to present the lives of the saints.

This year we highlighted six Dominican saints with a 6th-grade student sharing facts and quotes from the saint's life as a pre-schooler stood in front of the assembly dressed as that saint might have looked.



A student from our Early Education (pre-school) class demonstrates how St. Dominic might have looked at our annual All-Saints Day liturgy.

## MORE CHURCHES LAUNCH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MINISTRIES

### NETWORK GROWS TO 55 PARISHES AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

The Chicago archdiocesan network of parishes working on domestic violence continues to grow wider and stronger.

On November 7, 81 participants from 29

parishes and six domestic violence service organizations, including Catholic Charities, participated in the biannual assembly of parishes working on domestic violence.



On November 7, Fr. Chuck led a domestic violence ministry training for 81 participants from 29 parishes and six service agencies.

Fr. Chuck has now preached at all Masses in 65 Chicago area parishes and formed parish ministry committees in 55 of them.

He has an advisory board of 20 members who share his passion for addressing the issues of domestic violence.

The advisory board

formed six committees to respond to the various needs of the ministry as it grows in size and strength. The committees cover parish support, prevention, education and training, communication, fundraising, and public policy. In October, the advisory board successfully held its first retreat for survivors.

Fr. Chuck led a workshop on developing a ministry to victims of domestic violence for representatives from 15 parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

Our efforts are spreading!

In the coming months, Fr. Chuck will continue to preach and form ministries in parishes as the committees develop their respective work.

## BISHOP ROJAS PRESIDES OVER INSTALLATION OF PASTOR

The parish family of St. Pius V celebrated the installation of Fr. Jose M. Santiago, OP as pastor on October 25, 2015.

Fr. Jose, who grew up in Pilsen and in our parish, began his service as pastor on August 1. The installation included Bishop Alberto Rojas presiding and Fr. Jim Marchionda, OP, representing the Dominicans of the Central Province as Provincial.

The liturgy began with a procession from the Priory next door and included the giving of the key to Fr. Jose at the door of the church. Parishioners, parish leaders, and staff expressed welcome and support for their new pastor.



## RETREAT FOR PARISH LEADERS

On October 3 more than 100 parish leaders enjoyed a day-long retreat with Fr. Ed Shea, OFM, in Casa Juan Diego.

Fr. Ed shared reflections on Francis of Assisi's model of humility and service and helped parishioners apply it to parish life in a time of transition. The day included Mass, music, lunch, and opportunities for faith-sharing among the many groups that make up St. Pius V.

## THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE OUR HARVEST BANQUET A SUCCESS!

Almost 350 people gathered in our beautifully transformed parish hall on Saturday, October 24 for Celebrating the Harvest, our annual fundraising banquet.

Guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner, music, a raffle, and the lively words of emcee Lourdes Duarte of WGN News.

This year our parish family honored Maura and Leonardo Vargas and family with the Family of Faith Award; Raul Raymundo of The Resurrection Project with the Community Service Award; and the Greater Chicago Food Depository with the Institutional Development Award.

These honorees were chosen for their extraordinary living out of the mission we

share: welcoming, teaching, transforming lives.

The event raised approximately \$50,000 in support of the ministries and social outreach of our parish.

We thank all who attended and donated and in a special way our sponsors: El Milagro, St. Anthony Hospital, ComEd, Carnicerias Jiménez, Blue Island Produce, J.L. Gonzalez Produce, Tom and Judy Herbrtritt, MB Financial Bank, Raul Raymundo and family, and The Resurrection Project.



Fr. Chuck (right to left) and Fr. José listen to Raul Raymundo who invited his parents, Jose and Guadalupe Raymundo, to share the honor.

# PARISHES, ARCHDIOCESE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE IN PILSEN

## SIX PARISHES, DOMINICANS, JESUITS RESPOND TO CHANGES IN DEMOGRAPHICS

In April of this year Archbishop Cupich invited the six parishes in Pilsen to begin a process to prepare for the future of the Catholic church in our neighborhood.

St. Pius V parish has entered into this process with St. Adalbert, St. Ann, St. Paul, St. Procopius, and Providence of God, as well as with the Dominican and Jesuit provinces, which staff our parish and St. Procopius respectively.

The process is prompted by the demographic shifts in Pilsen, fewer available priests, and major capital improvements needed on church properties.

In recent years, many Hispanic residents have been moving to other areas of the city and to the suburbs. Fewer people live in Pilsen and many new residents are single or young couples with no children.

In September the planning team surveyed parishioners at the six parishes on demographic information and priorities for parish life.

The survey reflected three clear areas of priority: providing opportunities for children and families to grow together in faith, serving those in need, and building a welcoming community.

At St. Pius V many former Pilsen residents remain active in our parish long after they have left the neighborhood. Among survey respondents from our parish, 53% live outside of Pilsen. This was by far the highest among the six parishes.

“This process with the Archdiocese has

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***Three clear areas of priority emerged: providing opportunities for children and families to grow together in faith, serving those in need, and building a welcoming community.***

**- From results of a survey of parishioners in Pilsen’s six parishes**

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Mass attendance and baptisms are significantly lower than ten years ago.

The Pilsen planning team has looked at these issues and will give feedback on scenarios presented by the Archdiocese for building on the long history of the church here and a future that will sustain and grow the Catholic presence in our neighborhood. The final decision, which could include consolidations and closings, will be made by Archbishop Cupich.

been an important but difficult process to undertake,” said Fr. José, our pastor. “It will lead to some painful decisions and will challenge us as the church in Pilsen to expand our horizons of ministry and to respect the community’s call for us to be a welcoming Catholic Church community.

“I have the hope,” he continued, “that we will undertake this challenge and strengthen our identity and ministry for the sake of Christ’s greater body in Pilsen.”



### YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your support makes it possible for us to continue our mission of welcoming, teaching, and transforming lives.

Please consider a year-end gift to sustain and grow our ministries to children, youth, families, domestic violence victims, immigrants, and hundreds who come to us for food and clothing each week.

You may use the enclosed envelope or donate safely and securely online at:

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

Thank you!