

FROM THE DESK OF FR. DAVID

**Pardon our dust:
4 tools for a church in transition: Part 3**

We live in a messy time of transition in the Catholic Church. Sociologist Bryan T. Froehle offers four tools to help us through the renovation.

ADULTS ONLY

Have you ever been on an airplane when they've said that adults should take care of themselves first, then the children that they are with? We are sometimes uncomfortable when we hear this, but there is a great deal of truth in it.

Catholics today give a disproportional amount of their energy to forming children in the faith, and yet we virtually ignore God's call to adults. Compared with Protestants, Catholics have a proportionately stronger presence in children's education programs and a much weaker presence in adult faith formation, prayer groups, and the like.

Today, however, engaging children works best within a community that reaches out to the adults and models the development of adult disciples at the same time as it passes on the faith to young people.

In the 1950s Catholics placed an overriding value on raising children who were obedient. By the 1980s, as the sociologist Duane Alwin shows, Catholics most valued children who could think for themselves. In the 1950s working for a large organization meant obedience to those in authority and respect for the institution. Today we move from job to job in an information-based economy organized more like the Internet than a traditional corporate or government bureaucracy. And we all know we don't have jobs for life and that our employers and the government do not necessarily have an unshakable loyalty to us or even respect our needs.

So we've come to raise children to think on their own, to be creative, not to rely on others, and not to be especially obedient. No wonder we can't seem to figure out how to keep teens, young adults, and so many others attending church regularly. We're still assuming that they are obedient and would act as if they have great institutional loyalty—in other words as if they were raised in the 1950s. This worldview long ago lost its social foundation, is not found in the current generation, and is unlikely to be found in the future.

On the other hand, we can certainly make the case that children are children precisely because they are dependent and can thus be forced to be obedient—at least up to a point. Perhaps we could also say that as a church we have a hidden, unspoken desire that parishioners be a little more obedient in terms of their commitment and attendance.

However, if we want to actually raise up and keep the next generation of Catholic adults, then pastoral life is going to need to speak to those who think for themselves. It is going to need to be a community of adult disciples.

Faith communities today cannot be based so much on communal ties as on associational ones. What is the difference? Communal ties tend to be ones inherited as children rather than chosen as adults. Associational ties lead to faith communities with a strong emphasis on adult faith

formation and adult discipleship—where children are welcome and treasured guests but not the be-all and end-all of the community. Rather, adults model adult-style commitments to church—ones that children and teens will be expected to undertake themselves if they, in fact, choose to continue in the practice of their faith.

Today Catholics quite rightly socialize their young people to think for themselves rather than be obedient. Being creative and thinking for oneself is essential for success in our culture and our economy, and being obedient is not a very functional value for people who need to live and act independently in a society marked by individualism and choice. Our Catholic faith communities would do well to keep up with this trend by putting adults first. This does not entail putting children down—just challenging adults to witness to their faith and giving them space to do so.

There is another reason to focus on adults, and it has to do with a social shift many of us have hardly noticed. Today 75 percent of households in the United States have no school-age children. Thirty years ago it was just the opposite. At that time an overwhelming majority of households had school-age children to be formed and raised. So it was not surprising that Catholic parishes could unite around the needs of the Catholic school and CCD program. A large number of households with children had something in common. Parishes focused on “doing something for the kids,” and it worked, often simultaneously engaging the adults. And such a model, based on very high proportions of Catholics with school-age children, could succeed with relatively limited adult leadership. The overriding need and the structures required were obvious; everything grew up organically, in a taken-for-granted style around a common need.

Nothing could be more different today. At a time when most households no longer have school-age children, people bring a diversity of needs that often overwhelm parishes and pastoral leaders in their sheer number and complexity. Having a large number of households without children means that these households effectively have little in common as a whole. Pastoral leaders need to make hard decisions: What common interests are to be a central focus? Circumstances will not decide.

We may therefore see very good reasons to embrace the emergence of increasingly specialized parishes—some focused on youth, others oriented toward young adults, some with a strong focus on certain kinds of musical styles.

The simple truth is that a number of ministry needs cost money and valuable talent. Parishes have limited funds and can only invest strongly in some areas. Logically this situation would lead either to a mediocre parish life that tries to be all things to all people, or specialized parishes that do some well-chosen and very specific things especially well.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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TODAY: Eucharistic Day

Sunday, 23 September 2007

Saint Stanislaus Church

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
begins after the 8:30am Mass thru the afternoon

Sacrament of Reconciliation
3:30pm; Polish and English available

Evening Prayer
with the Anointing of the Sacrament of the Sick,
the Litany of the Saints and Procession
begins at 4:30pm

Concerning Mass Intentions...

Prayers and the remembrance of our dead is a sacred act, an important aspect of the grieving process and our Catholic tradition. The Catholic and Eastern Christian Churches have always remembered the dead at the Eucharist and in the daily prayers of the church.

Though the Eucharistic Prayers all pray for the living and the dead and the individual prayers of each member present at the Eucharist are part of the offering of thanks and praise; over time when a person was not able to be present at the Mass, people began to request that the priest remember and pray for their intention. Thus arose the tradition of giving the priest a stipend, that is, an offering for the remembering. The stipend was never a "payment" for offering the Mass or as some have said, "buying" a Mass; neither does requesting the priest to pray for an intention give the individual any special claim on the particular Mass. **The Eucharist is an act of communal worship and takes up all the intentions and prayers offered to God of the entire community.** In Eucharistic Prayer III we pray, "*Father, hear the prayers of the family you have gathered here before you.*" The General Intercessions, the Eucharistic Prayers, as mentioned above, and the Lord's Prayer all contain petitions and intentions. Thus, the Eucharist is never offered for a single intention.

In keeping with this tradition and the church's canons, **beginning October 2007** I am implementing two practical procedural norms in regard to Mass Intentions.

- **All requests for Mass Intentions and Mass Cards will be made through the Saint Stanislaus Parish Office: 842.2771.** *The reason for this* is that the bulletin is finalized through St. Stan's Office. This will simplify the transfer of information from St. John's and St. Casimir's parish offices.
- **Mass Intentions will continue to be printed in the bulletin but NOT proclaimed during the General Intercessions for the Sunday Masses.** *The reason for this* is that the list of the deceased in the Eucharist is becoming unduly long and out of proportion to the rest of the prayers. Beginning in

October, one general petition will be proclaimed at each Mass in the General Intercessions for all the specific intentions listed in the bulletin for that Mass and for those intentions each of us have been personally requested to pray for. This then will also include the intentions of health, thanksgiving and wedding anniversaries that often are requested. The names of the dead that WILL be proclaimed during the Sunday Eucharist will be only those people who have died within that previous week.

- **Mass cards will continue to include the name of the respective church**, that is, St. Casimir, St. John the Baptist or St. Stanislaus, **where that Mass will be celebrated.**
- **Mass Intentions for 2008** will begin to be taken later this year; the time to be specified in the bulletin.

THE HOLY NAME AREA-WIDE CORPORATE

COMMUNION will take place at the 8 AM Mass on Sunday, October 21 at St. Michael's Church. Members should arrive by 7:45 AM. Breakfast follows at Crystal Ristorante (\$11). Those planning to attend the breakfast should reserve by October 7 by contacting Paul Ochal, 842-5144 (PAULOCHAL1@verizon.net), or John Szkaradek, 843-3929 (jszkarad@nycap.rr.com).

CODE OF CONDUCT

I have received correspondence from Bishop Hubbard which includes a Code of Conduct that all parish staff and volunteers will have to read, sign and comply with. This is part of the ongoing efforts of our diocese to protect our children and all members of the church. This will be done in as timely a manner as I can among the three parishes. For your information, in the past five years the diocese has implemented:

- comprehensive policies to respond to all allegation of abuse.
- reached out to victims, families of victims and to the faith communities of the victims.
- ministered to the accused and investigated all complaints against clergy and /or church personnel.
- established "safe environment" program and presented it to over 18,000 employees and volunteers
- developed and implemented special education program for Faith Formation.
- rewritten diocesan Technology Policies to be stronger and installed filters on all parish/school computers
- participated in the National Audit and been compliant with all guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Fr. David will be out of town from 25 September thru 25 October. Deacon Michael Ryba will be administering the parishes in his absence. Fr. Stan Swierzowski and Fr. Pat Iannotti will cover liturgies.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST NEWS

Weekly Parish Stewardship Report

Budgeted Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008:
\$216,390.00

The weekly collection needed to meet our expenses: **\$4,161.35** prior to fundraising efforts. This amount is the compilation of all collections including weekly, monthly, flowers, insurance, liability etc. All these monies are deposited in our Operating Acct and used for our parish expenses.

**09/9/07 Collection: \$1331.00
 Breakdown**

Weekly: \$1,080.00	Monthly: \$63.00
Insurance: \$ 65.00	Assumption: \$10.00
Renovation: \$33.00	Diocesan: \$29.00
Candles: \$28.00	Fuel: \$20.00
All Saints: \$3.00	

**09/16/07 Collection: \$1331.00
 Breakdown**

Weekly: \$888.00	Monthly: \$351.00
Insurance: \$ 43.00	Renovation: \$23.00
Candles: \$24.00	

FAITH FORMATION: St. John's Faith Formation program, Kindergarten through grade 10, began on Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 16. Classes are held Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 am. Registration forms are available in the back of the Church and at the rectory. Please return these completed forms to the rectory or give them to your child's teacher ASAP. ALL students need to have a form on file, even if they were registered last year.

For those parishioners who pay Bishop's Appeal or offertory pledges with gifts of appreciated securities, please note that the Diocese of Albany has changed brokerage services. Please contact the parish office before making a stock gift to the parish or diocese

MEETING FOR HARVEST DINNER AND ELECTION DAY

FOOD SALE: There will be a meeting this Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 6:30 pm to make plans for St. John's Annual Harvest Chicken dinner and the Election Day bake/food sale. Anyone that would like to help at either of these events is asked to attend the meeting. If you are unable to come to the meeting but would like to help, please call the rectory and leave your name & phone number.

FYI: Please see the bulletin boards for information regarding events and fundraisers taking place in our community and at area churches. Also, there are flyers posted regarding programs being offered during the month of October at the Dominican Retreat & Conference Center in Niskayuna.

CONTINUE YOUR GROWTH IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND TRADITION.

- One way of continuing our growth in the Catholic Tradition is through periodicals. Please be aware and take time to visit the publication rack in the back of the church. Included are copies of the **Sunday Visitor, The Living Word, Saint Anthony Messenger, The Catholic Digest,** and **Catholic Parent.** Never throw periodicals out...pass them on.

FYI...

- I have met with the Parish Council who received a parish financial report for their review from our accountant Bernard Rizzo. Members were given copies of recent diocesan financial policies that need to be reviewed and implemented. These polices are for the protect of parish funds and of the parishioners who deal in any way with parish finances and the collection.
- I have accepted the resignations from the Council of Edmond Swierzowski and Gerald Kilinski.
- Due to diocesan polices which state that the position of Trustee is for one year; that can be renewed for up to 6 years I have acknowledged our parish's thanks to Joseph Kielbasa and Henry Kartner for their past service to our community and with the assistance of the Council raising the names of new prospective Trustees.
- The shrubs in front of the church are being removed because most are dead and will at this time be re-seeded with grass.

SAINT CASIMIR NEWS

Weekly Parish Stewardship Report

Budgeted Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008:
\$188,494.02

The weekly collection needed to meet our expenses: **\$3,624.89** prior to fundraising efforts. This amount is the compilation of all collections including weekly, monthly, flowers, insurance, liability etc. All these monies are deposited in our Operating Acct and used for our parish expenses.

**9/9/07 Collection: \$1,582.25
 Breakdown**

Weekly: \$1,090.25	Monthly: \$442.00
Diocesan: \$15.00	Insurance & Fuel-\$10.00
Candles \$23.00	

FYI...

- The low shrubs near the Veterans Memorial in our cemetery have been removed since most were dead. In their place the ground will be seeded with grass and a Japanese maple has been planted countering the flag pole. The American flag has been removed due to its poor condition; faded and torn. It is being replaced with new flag.
- A portion of the cemetery roads will be resurfaced at a cost of \$25,000.00 from a gift to the parish. The cost of resurfacing the entire cemetery is \$63,000.00.

500 Club Winner

September 12, 2007 - Dennis Kruger #426
 \$2,000.00 Congratulations!

The annual 500 Club promoters meeting will take place at 1:00 pm TODAY.

OUR AFTER MASS COFFEE HOUR will resume on Sunday, October 7th. We "THANK" the 3 teams for their willingness to host the Coffee Hour that will be held on an every other Sunday schedule unless more teams sign up. Please consider doing so.

Baseball Pool - Week 23-No winner

Football Pool - Winner Week 1-Neil Martuscello

FALL FOOTBALL POOL: - PAYMENT IS NOW DUE!!!

FAITH FORMATION: Sessions will take place on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Social Center. Registration is continuing, however, please do so as soon as possible.

CALLED TO BE CHURCH: Monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 25th at 7:00 pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. The topic will be "Liturgy, the Source and Summit of our Life Together as Church" please remember our core team members in your prayers.

OCTOBER 7TH IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY ROSARY. The Living Rosary Society will have its Annual Dinner on Sunday, Oct 7th at CP's Family Restaurant in Hagaman immediately following the 10:30 am Mass. The dinner consists of Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Soup or Salad, Dessert & Coffee or Tea. The price is \$11.25 per person. Please RSVP to Irene Kuchis at 842-5805 or Stella Mateunas at 842-7665 as soon as possible so that we may make our reservations. All members are asked to wear their medals and meet at the back of the Church to attend Mass.

REMINDER: Bulletin announcements must be sent/called into the Rectory 2 weeks prior to the Sunday of the announcement.

SAINT STANISLAUS NEWS

WEEKLY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budgeted Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008:
\$400,627.04

The weekly collection needed to meet our expenses: **\$7,704.37** prior to fundraising efforts. This amount is the compilation of all collections including weekly, monthly, flowers, insurance, liability etc. All these monies are deposited in our Operating Acct and used for our parish expenses

9/16/07 Collection: \$5,346.00
Breakdown

Weekly: \$3,880.00	Monthly: \$241.00
Candles: \$110.00	Liability Insurance: \$95.00
Capital Improvement: \$1,020.00	
Food Pantry: \$109.00 and 15 bags groceries	

LADIES' ROSARY SOCIETY ANNUAL MASS - Sunday, October 14 at 8:30 a.m.. A buffet breakfast will be served in the church hall immediately following Mass. Cost is \$5.00. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 842-6272 (Connie) or 842-3475 (Regina) by October 8. Following breakfast the Society's business meeting will be held at which annual dues will be collected.

Saint Stanislaus Church

Benefit Spaghetti Dinner

The Amsterdam Municipal Golf Course, Van Dyke Avenue
Monday, 1 October 2007; 4:00—7:00pm
\$8.00 per adult; \$5.00 children 12 & under
Take-out available—50-50 and other raffles

Tickets can be purchased beginning Sun, 9 Sept... Before & after the 8:30 am Sunday Mass OR at the Parish Office, Mondays & Tuesdays from 10am-1pm; for information call: 842.2771
Volunteers will be needed to help serve and bake sheet cakes, brownies or cupcakes for dessert. Sign up sheets can be found on the back table and side entrance of the church...thanks.

MASS INTENTIONS

Weekday masses are celebrated at St. Stanislaus at 8:00am

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Mary Trzaskos, req. Venegas Family
Stephen Delongchamp (Ann.), req. Kathy & Family

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Isabel McGuigan, req. Mary Niemczyk

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Edith Johnson & Janet Acker, req. Ray & Helene
Robert Zielinski, req. Mary Cisek

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Vincenzo & Elizabeth Montarello, req. Chuck & Dolores Haberek
Eleanor & Frank Karandyszewski, req. Family
Camille Sawisza (Ann.), req. Daughter, Christina

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Barb & Dan Haberek, req. Family
Charles Lis, req. Tessie Haberek

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29— 4:30 @ St. John's

John & Lottie Galinski (Ann.), req. Ron & Family
Mary Romsiewicz (Ann.), req. Leo, Jr. & Susan
Walter Dybas, req. Wife, Fran
John Borowski (Ann.), req. Wife & Family
Barney (Ann.) & Winifred Adamski, req. Daughter, Dorothy

Special Intentions for Jean Wancewicz, req. Eileen & Richard Broyles

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30—8:30 @ St. Stan's/10:30 @ St. Casimir

8:30am **St. Michael's Society Corporate Communion**
Ed & Victoria Michalski & Son Edward, req. Family
Pasquale, Assunta & Pietro Russo, req. Lynette, Natalie and Peter & Chrissy
John & Mary Frydel, req. Family
10:30am **Anna, Charles & Son Charles Rakstis**, req. Fran Luzinas

SANCTUARY LAMP—September 23-29, 2007:

Special Intention for Parishioners of all three Parishes