

Transfiguration Parish Pastoral Council  
Monday, March 20, 2006

## Formation Report

Our Sunday & Wednesday GIFT programs continue to meet throughout the entire Lenten season preparing for the celebration of Easter. These groups seem to be doing quite well as they focus on the Sunday scripture readings for this holy season we are in for each of their levels. We have been meeting continuously since their break in mid February and will go all the way to the end of March before taking a pause for their Spring break which begins on April 3. There will be no GIFT sessions on April 2 or 5 due to Spring break. There shall be GIFT sessions on Passion Sunday, April 9, where everyone will participate in the start of Holy Week in GIFT, and in church as well.

There will be another in our series of family gatherings for all those involved in our middle school GIFT process on Wednesday, April 12 from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Lower Level of Church. This session is for all those parents of the parish who have youth in middle school. The theme of the evening will focus on the institution of the Eucharist which took place on the night before Jesus died which has become to be known as "Holy Thursday". We are asking that anyone who comes to this service to bring some kind of canned food, or dried beans to cook with for the homeless who eat lunch at the Cathedral.

Our middle school youth will have the opportunity to visit St. Vincent De Paul on Saturday, March 18 and experience what that ministry is concerned about within the church. They will have lunch with the participants of that facility. I will let you know next month how the trip went for our middle schoolers.

Our First Eucharist process had its third and final meeting this past Sunday with most of the families participating in the workshop. Fr. Herb met with the group and he gave them a tour of the church. He also practiced with them how to receive the bread and wine properly in preparation for their celebration of their First Eucharist this spring. For all that I can see, the children are preparing well for the reception of Jesus for the first time in the next couple of months. I believe everyone has scheduled a date for their celebration, and most have scheduled a time to see Fr. Herb prior to their reception of the Eucharist. The First Eucharist celebrations begin the weekend of April 29/30 and go through the weekend of May 20/21.

It is hard to believe, but it is time for all the families of the parish to begin thinking of this summers Vacation Bible School. This year's VBS process will take place June 18-22 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm for all children of the parish age 4 (those who are 4 MUST be that age by October 1, 2005) through grade 5 of the current school year. Older youth in grades 6 through 12 are more than welcome to help out in the various parts of the process. This year's theme is, "Fiesta: Where Kids Are Fired Up About Jesus". This process will once again be filled with a lot of fun activities for all those involved. A lot of help from the adults and older youth of the parish will be needed to make this process a reality this summer. Thus, there will be a planning meeting on Sunday, March 26 @

12:15 pm in Room D (living room) of the Parish Center to begin putting the program together.

Our RCIA process is progressing very nicely at this time. Our two candidates for sacraments (Jerry Lewis & Armando Cerna), are getting ready to receive confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. They recently were part of a ritual at St. Patrick's with Archbishop Kelly on March 4 and will be on a day long retreat on April 8 @ the Cavanaugh Center. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Regional Collaboration**-Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at St. Margaret Mary parish. This meeting includes lunch and any of you who are interested in coming to that gathering, you are more than welcome to join us.

This meeting is a gathering of all Region 9 (Northeast 9) staffs to collaborate on our common ministries and how we can help out one another as ministers in the church in our various parishes.

Below you will find some of the activities happening in our region in the next few months.

-There will be an RCIA retreat on Saturday, April 8 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Cavanaugh Center in Crestwood to be given by Sal Della Bella from the Office of Spirituality and Ministry.

-There will be a Generations of Faith process on Friday, April 21 at St. Albert the Great parish which will focus on our Eucharistic celebrations. This process is for folks of all ages. More details to follow.

-There will be a women's retreat on Saturday, May 13 from 9 am to 4 pm at St. Albert the Great parish. The retreat will be conducted by Ginny Brown.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Sugrue  
Director of Formation