

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC PARISH



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## *Prayer Chain Ministry:* Bringing Parish Family Together and Showering God's Mercy on Others

**F**or over 25 years, Shirley Kinworthy has given her heart to the Prayer Chain Ministry in an amazing way, and only God knows how many people have been blessed because of it.

"I consider the Prayer Chain a treasure — something I treasure as if it were a little child of mine," she says. "I really care about this ministry, and I can't imagine ever giving it up. People feel so free to contact me. They know that if they do, there will be someone on the other end of the line who cares about them and will pray for them. Because there are 59 members on the Prayer Chain right now, they can be confident that there will be many prayers offered for them."

Whenever someone from our parish would like to submit a prayer request, they can simply email it to Shirley or call her with the request. Upon receiving the request, Shirley writes up a meaningful prayer based on it, and emails it out to each Prayer Chain member. All parishioners are welcome to submit requests of any kind.

"I receive messages from parishioners who would like prayers said for them for all sorts of situations that come their way," Shirley says. "For example, people often contact me and say they have a relative or a friend who is in need of prayers, so I write up a prayer for that particular person. Each week, one of our parishioners also sends me a list of the names of patients from Cook Children's Medical Center, and we pray for them."

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# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## Prayer Chain Ministry

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We pray for those who are working with the Open Arms Health Clinic in Arlington, as well.”

When the members receive the prayer requests, they are free to pray about them in whatever way they choose. However, they must not share the prayer requests with anyone outside of the Prayer Chain.

“This is a totally private ministry,” Shirley says. “I ask each member to take a spiritual vow of confidentiality, and I have not had any trouble with people breaking this vow in all these years.”

Furthermore, this ministry is a meaningful way to practice the Stewardship of Time.

“It is such a gift to be able to pray for others through this ministry,” Shirley says. “It unites us all in Christ. It is a way that busy people can reach those in need and show God’s mercy to them. Our prayers really do help others!”

***“The Prayer Chain brings our parish family together. Our parishioners can rest assured that they will never go through trials in life alone. We are here to support one another. Our Merciful Lord hears our prayers and helps the lambs of God that come along on their path. Many have been blessed by the prayers and sacrifices of the Prayer Chain members.”***

— SHIRLEY KINWORTHY

Over the years, Shirley has witnessed what a beautiful impact this ministry can make.

“We have seen many answers to our prayers, such as when a family who is struggling finds peace,” she says. “Sometimes, people call me and give me a gift and thank me, telling me that everything is going better since we started praying for them. Our prayers really do help!”

Above all, the powerful presence of the Prayer Chain makes our church feel like a true parish family — one founded on Christ’s love.

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*If you would like more information, to submit a prayer request, or to join the Prayer Chain, please contact Shirley Kinworthy at 817-429-1427 or [s.kinworthy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.kinworthy@sbcglobal.net).*

## A Letter From Our Pastor

# Redefining Love

## THROUGH THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Dear Parishioners,

One of the great feasts of the Christian year will occur in June, but it is often overlooked. It doesn't fall on a Sunday, and it isn't a Holy Day of Obligation. I am referring to the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, which will be on June 11 this year. This wonderful feast provides a great way to begin the summer.

However, despite widespread devotion and many parish dedications to the Sacred Heart, many Catholics have only a vague idea of what it's all about. So, let me try to briefly fill in the picture.

Often, when we think of the heart, we think of it as the seat of our emotions and feelings. The heart is often contrasted with the mind, as though our God-given reason were somehow evil or, at best, second-rate. But feelings come and go — we can't really depend on our emotions to be reliable, steady guides.

However, when classical theology refers to the heart, it is considering an aspect of human life that goes beyond our feelings. It includes our will, where we make decisions. The heart can be considered the center of our personhood.

In explaining Christian teaching about human nature, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "The spiritual tradition of the Church also emphasizes the heart, in the biblical sense of the depths of one's being, where the person decides for or against God" (368).

It is common to mistakenly label love as an emotion. Love often includes feelings, but true love is more than that. Real love is a settled attitude that wants the best for the person being loved. That's why the Church's teaching usually uses the term "charity" — to distinguish the Christian virtue from the more superficial popular concept of love.

The *Catechism* tells us, "Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Jesus makes charity the new commandment. By loving his own 'to the end,' he makes manifest the Father's love which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive" (CCC, 1822-1823).

This sort of love, this charity — demonstrated by Jesus Christ and commanded to His followers — is no lightweight

passing emotion. Feelings alone do not bring one to offer oneself to an agonizing death for the sake of someone else. No, that sort of sacrifice can only come from a considered and deliberate decision.

Although we sometimes forget that fact, Jesus is fully human as well as fully divine. So, His human heart was involved in His sacrifice on the Cross. Thus, simply put, devotion to the Sacred Heart reminds us of the basic fact that God loves us. It was a costly love, the ultimate act of charity, to give His life on our behalf.

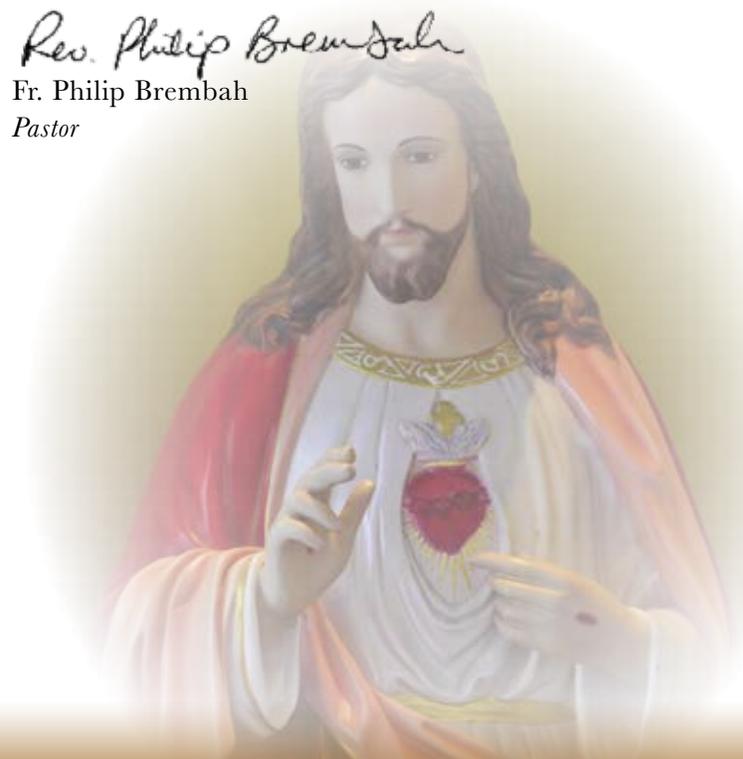
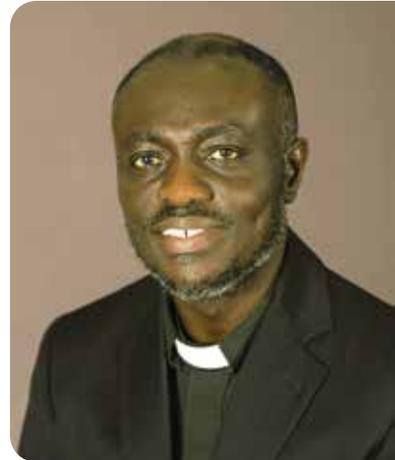
We know the kind of love Jesus has for us. What kind of loving response are you going to make? How will that affect your use of your time, talent and treasure?

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Philip Brembah

Pastor



# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## A LOOK BACK ON OUR *First*

*On May 1, we had 52 children receive their First Communion. The Sacramental Preparation Team of Michal Tincup, Jo-Lee Buncic, Linda Reilly and Debbie Horn prepared the children for their sacrament. Michal Tincup is the Director of Children's Faith Formation.*



*The banner is made of praise figures that the children did of themselves.*



*Michal Tincup, Linda Reilly, Jo-Lee Buncic and Debbie Horn*



*Linda Reilly, Jo-Lee Buncic, Debbie Horn and Michal Tincup*

# Communion Celebration



# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## *Stewardship*

# DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM STEWARDSHIP THIS SUMMER

Everyone deserves a vacation.

After nine busy months of school, kids get to enjoy the summer to relax and regroup before beginning a new grade. Employees, after diligently working long hours and dealing with stressful situations, deserve time away from the office to enjoy their favorite getaway.

No one would argue that we need to mentally refresh our minds and bodies from time to time so that we can come back rejuvenated and ready to do our best.

Taking a break from some things, however, is not a possibility.

Take stewardship, for example. Imagine saying to yourself, "Well, this month I think I will not pray, I won't share any of my talents with anyone in need, and I will hoard my treasure." What would doing this accomplish? You certainly wouldn't feel refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to be at your best. Instead, feelings of greed, selfishness and spiritual unrest may occur. Stepping back from being a good steward just doesn't make sense.

So, now that summer has arrived in full force and our leisure time each day has increased, how can we remain good stewards?

It is likely that the regimented opportunities available during the school year are no longer available. Youth ministry and parish religious education formation may also be on summer break.

So, where do you turn? How can you keep your faith alive?

First and foremost, don't stop praying. The slow-paced days of summer are a perfect time to quiet ourselves for a few moments and try to reconnect with God. Why not take a moment of your free time each day to read the Gospel or a spiritual reflection while lounging in a hammock?

Next, try to participate in an outreach program over the summer. Think of the life of Christ — everything He did on Earth was an act of service. Now, think of the gifts God has bestowed on you. He wants you to share them with others like He did, and summer gives us the time to do just that.

If you like working with kids, you can volunteer at the Vacation Bible School by helping to decorate, organize or being a team leader for the younger children.

If you are handy with tools, you may call Habitat for Humanity to see how you can help build a home for a family in need.

Or, if you are musically inclined, you might share your singing or instrumental gifts with a local nursing home. Maybe you are good in the kitchen — if so, you could offer your culinary skills to a local soup kitchen or food bank.

If you are a strong student, you could offer tutoring services to neighborhood kids to help prepare them for the next school year.

No matter what gift God has given you, there is a way to share it.

Getting paid for volunteering sometimes happens. And, if you have a summer job while on break, you'll get a paycheck for sure. Have you ever taken an opportunity to think about sharing the first fruits of your check?

As a young adult, returning a portion of your paycheck to God is an important thing to consider. Giving a portion back to Him is a way to say "thanks."

Whatever you do this summer, don't take a break from being a good steward. Remember that the time God gives you is a gift. What you do with it — whether on vacation or not — is meant to give Him glory.



# Embracing Stewardship and a *Journey of Sainthood*

**G**rowing up in the Catholic Church, we have heard the names St. Patrick, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Nicholas, St. Peter, and several more Saints. There are thousands of Saints, each of them an example of how we are called to live out our faith. We are called to be saints too! Yet, the challenge most of us face is the reality of our lives. We have chores that we need to do, we have a job that takes up most of our time, we have children that need our attention and keep us busy. How could we possibly live a life like the Saints?

On April 17, we had our Annual Stewardship Parish Retreat. Our presenter, Lisa McArdle, spoke about the many ways we can live our lives and answer the call to sainthood. Lisa spoke about stewardship starting in the home, and she shared examples of living as stewards, which will lead us to sainthood. Many of you are probably wondering how stewardship and sainthood are connected. Stewardship is recognizing the many gifts that God gives you and your response to share those gifts with others through your time, talents, and treasure. Sainthood is living a life that reflects God's love in all that you do and leads you to a closer relationship with Him. Stewardship and sainthood are very connected.

Stewardship provides us a little structure to help guide us as we learn how to serve God on our journey to sainthood. The Four Pillars of Stewardship are hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. These same four focuses work for living a life like the Saints. Below are a few examples:

- Hospitality is greeting others as if we are meeting Christ. St. Teresa of Calcutta says she saw the face of Christ in all the poor that she served. St. Katharine of Drexel grew up receiving the poor into her home and continued serving the poor the rest of her life.  
+ For our lives — change how you greet your family members as they come home; consider having dinner time as family time with no distractions; consider greeting your neighbors when you drive to or from home, or say “hello” to people in stores.
- Prayer is raising one's heart to God. Through prayer, we are better able to hear what God is calling us to in our lives. St. Catherine of Siena wanted to spend her life in prayer, but God called her to go speak with the pope

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*Lisa McArdle spoke at our Stewardship Parish Retreat.*

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## MASSES

**Saturday Vigil:** 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**Weekdays: (M/T/Th/Fr)** 8:45 a.m. in the church  
(Wed) 6:00 p.m. in the church

**Holy Days:** 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Confessions:** Saturday: 4-5 p.m. in the chapel

## Embracing Stewardship and a Journey of Sainthood

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and help start a reform in the Church. Through prayer, St. Faustina received the Divine Mercy Chaplet and image.

+ For our lives — pray for a family member as you fold laundry; pray before meals and bed; one evening a week, pray the Rosary as a family, the Liturgy of the Hours, or a Divine Mercy Chaplet.

- Formation helps us understand and explain God's teachings about how we are called to live. We have many Saints to look to who spent their lives learning and sharing their knowledge — Saints such as St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Augustine, and St. Hilary, to name just a few.  
+ For our lives — Follow Ascension Press' *Bible in*

*a Year* podcasts; attend a parish formation event; read a book by one of our many Saints; dive into the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* once a week.

- Service is how we serve the people of God. St. Vincent de Paul, St. Martin de Porres, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Matilda, and St. John Bosco worked towards serving those in need.  
+ For our lives — help our children give clothes and toys to others; cook a meal for an elderly neighbor; regularly call a family, friend, or neighbor who might be isolated or lonely.

The wonderful thing about living a life of stewardship is that it leads you to live a life of sainthood and helps us live out our baptismal promise to be a Holy One.