

# THE CORNERSTONE

Winter 2008

building the City of God

Saint Ladislav Roman Catholic Church

Westlake, Ohio

## MARCH FOR LIFE January 22, 2008, Washington, D.C.

Many buses form a spiritual convoy from Cleveland, with at least half the riders on my bus of high school and college age. Knowing that our bus captain, Frank Kosmerl, has been going for 25 years, is in sharp contrast to this, my first rally. We leave St. John Bosco at 9 p.m., and drive all night, arriving at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the 7:30 a.m., Solemn High Mass. The Basilica is crowded, especially with young people who spent the night in one giant sleepover as guests of the Basilica, and is full to the point of standing-room only. The large presence of young people adds hope and freshness to this day.



The Noon rally, held on the Mall between the Washington Monument and the Capitol building, stirs the crowd and becomes the starting point for the March for Life. In spite of the bitter cold, the Mall is crowded, and it soon becomes evident that it is the younger generation that is in the majority, an impressive characteristic of this event.

Nellie Gray, who started this March for Life 35 years ago, chairs the rally and introduces all the speakers. A telephone address from President

Bush is followed by several talks from congressmen and other dignitaries, which results in an hour delay for the actual march. It is worth the wait. Attendees, estimated at 250,000, are well in excess of last year's.

As the march begins and banners and signs are raised, enthusiasm reaches a high point and one can finally get a visual impression of the huge number of church parishes, groups and organizations involved. It feels good to be a part of this endeavor, to be with so many people of the same mindset, as I march with the crowd slowly up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court where a prayer vigil is underway and where we finally disband. At St. Peters Catholic Church, two to three



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Monday evening to Wednesday morning, total trip time was 29 hours.)

The primary goal of the March for Life is to reverse the 1973 Roe versus Wade decision legalizing abortion in the United States. However, this organization and other like organizations are also working in the larger role to educate and change the minds and hearts of all persons so that respect for life from conception to natural death will become an inherent part of our culture. The March for Life will be held each year until these goals are accomplished. If you don't mind sleeping on a bus, no place to shower or bathe and crowding a lot of worthwhile activity into a long day, this trip is for you. Hope to see you there next year!

- Bob Bernath



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## Make Time – God Will Do the Rest

“I’m too busy.” Sound familiar? There’s always too much to do and not enough time. We go to work, cook meals, and write bills. We chauffeur kids, attend meetings, and run errands. We rarely find a moment to take a deep breath; never mind reflecting on our relationship with God.

Yet the spirit is much like the body; it requires regular exercise and nourishment. Religious retreats are an excellent way to exercise and nourish the spirit. They offer a chance to withdraw from everyday life, to reflect on and renew one’s faith, and to find strength in the support of others.

Retreat opportunities are plentiful in our parish. This year’s “near-by” retreat invited women to focus on the theme “New Slants on Spiritual Exercises Illustrated through Christian Art.” This

retreat demonstrates the advantages of integrating technology with meditation and other forms of spiritual exploration.

Parishioner Martha Bober says, “I always return home feeling that the retreat time was a precious, renewing, reenergizing time for me.”

The spring men’s retreat, with the theme “Being a Man after God’s Own Heart,” brings men of St. Ladislav, St. Bernadette, and St. Ignatius of Antioch closer to God and each other. Men can share their struggles in a supportive and understanding environment of their peers.

Retreats offer something for everyone, regardless of age or spiritual condition. A common misconception is that retreats are only for the pious and devout. Not true, say the representatives of the men’s retreat.

*“God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called. A retreat is a way for all of us to encounter God in a new and/or deeper way. We’re all at different places in our spiritual journey, but in the same retreat environment, God will take each one of us where we’re at and move us along in accordance with His purposes. We just have to take the first step of faith and believe that He will do it.” – Keith Jenkins, Randy Vesco, Rick Manella and Tom Judge*

Taking that first step is difficult for those who have been questioning their faith, and yet there are many resources to make it easier. The Web offers an abundance of retreat information, including sites for nearby retreat centers. Here are a few places to get started:

- The Loyola of the Lakes Jesuit Retreat House, venue for the “near-by” retreat, offers retreats occasionally throughout the year in Clinton, Ohio. Visit [www.loyolaofthelakes.com](http://www.loyolaofthelakes.com).
- River’s Edge in Cleveland offers both quiet and directed retreats ranging from one day to one week. Visit [www.riversedge.com](http://www.riversedge.com).

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- Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, in Fremont, Ohio, offers retreats with a variety of focuses, including prayer through creative expression and personality exploration through Myers-Briggs topology. Visit [www.pinesretreat.com](http://www.pinesretreat.com).

Retreat opportunities are plentiful, and they are worthwhile for the nourishment they provide to the spirit. Remember that the spirit is another part of the self, and it, too, is worthy of nourishment like the body and mind.

- Carly Wiegand




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## ....ON WINGS OF EAGLES (SCOUTS, THAT IS)

The halls in our Parish Center may have a bit more activity going on than usual on Tuesday nights at 7:30. That added chatter is the sound of Boy Scout Troop 77. St. Ladislav has joined many other churches and organizations in sponsoring a troop where boys are able to develop character and good citizenship.

Five years ago, Fr. Don Snyder was approached by the Greater Cleveland Council regarding Troop 77. Formerly meeting at the Church of Christ in Westlake, the troop was notified that their home would be moving to Avon due to the growth of their congregation. St. Ladislav took in both the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts with open arms.

“I think that it is important for St. Ladislav to sponsor Scouting because of the ideals and principles it offers to our boys and young men,” said Fr. Snyder. “I believe Scouting offers boys the opportunity to discover all that their God has given them in their talents and gifts.”

Troop 77 is twenty-five years old this year. There are twenty-one Boy Scouts, twelve of whom are parishioners of St. Ladislav. As parishioners, and as Boy Scouts, they exemplify aspects of the Scout Law such as being helpful, courteous, friendly, kind, and loyal. You may

have noticed them assisting at Social Committee-sponsored Lenten Fish Fry Fridays, the annual Parish Picnic, serving as ushers, altar servers, church cleaners, or simply helping when there is a service to be done.

“They are a good group of boys, and we are proud of them as they grow and advance,” said Assistant Scoutmaster and parishioner John Anstead.

The highest rank in Scouting is that of Eagle. Only 3-4% of all registered Boy Scouts attain the rank of Eagle. Yet, there are currently five Eagle Scouts in Troop 77, including Brent Anstead, Chris Bell, Ryan Bell, Jerry Bobal, and Jason Wissman.

An Eagle Scout is a credit to his God, his country, his community and his parents. These Scouts are also a credit to the Parish community of St. Ladislav.

Every Eagle Scout takes on a service project before finally earning the rank of Eagle. This is in addition to earning at least twenty-one merit badges, with twelve required and nine other merit badges chosen by the scout, in skills as diverse as Personal Management or First Aid. After all this, the Scout reports to a board as they review his application, letters of recommendation, Eagle Scout project booklet and report, and future plans.

All of this preparation requires a great deal of time, dedication and commitment, fostering important principles in the boys. Eagle Scouts have gone on to be leaders in many areas, including business, teaching, and public service. Eagles have become astronauts, physicians, or in the case of Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States. It is an honored recognition that a Scout can be proud of, and St. Ladislav can be proud of our own Eagle Scouts.

As we recognize them for their good character, they in turn have identified our Parish as a place to serve, even with their Eagle Scout service

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projects. A new prayer trail was established in the woods adjacent to our parking lot, and the refurbished games at the Parish Picnic were fixed up, all in the pursuit of the Eagle rank.

Looking around our church, we may discover other parishioners who have served our Parish as part of their lifelong responsibility as an Eagle Scout. We are blessed to have these men as part of our Parish family. A little extra chatter at St. Ladislav from Troop 77 adds to the growth and development of these boys and young men in their citizenship training, as well as the wider community. Once an Eagle Scout, always an Eagle Scout!

- Rebecca Frank



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## DEACON DAVE'S GREATEST BLESSING

Dave Kinzel celebrates 30 years as a Deacon this year (2008). His ordination took him through several deaconate ministries in the Cleveland area, while working full time in hospital administration. After talking with Fr. Cullen, St. Lad's late previous pastor, he came here to St. Lad's and was hooked. He went full-time as a deacon and never looked back.

What kind of legacy does he feel he's had? He says, "We look back on some things that were difficult, and may not have been perfect. It was hard at times to balance the many responsibilities of family and my work at St. Lad's." In the early years, he used to preach a lot when Fr. Cullen wasn't able to. He also had very rewarding weekend retreats. "When I was in good health, I fully enjoyed busy days with many activities and routines."

He says he doesn't know where he's going, but as his oncologist doctor tells him, he can only do so much. "But," he says, "I have enjoyed it all. I have had many, many good experiences with the people who have crossed my path through the years."

In May of this year, Dave will celebrate 45 years of marriage to Marilyn, who is also active at St. Lad's. He says, "She has the sensitivity of a saint and a lot of strength to put up with me." They have five children and currently 14 grandchildren.

During the first year of their marriage, Dave's work took him to Phoenix as a teacher and then back to Cleveland to teach at St. Ed's for a few years. After three years at NASA, he left and taught again at Tri-C for a brief stint until they whisked him into the president's office as his assistant, and then became VP of human affairs, staying at Tri-C 15 years. He went to St. Vincent Charity for 10 years, holding many administrative roles. In more recent times, he has worked with those in the last stages of life, and helped them and their families — until he had to spend more time on himself when he got sick, too.

Feeling somewhat saddened that his current health status doesn't permit him the time to enjoy the schedule he used to keep, Dave is down to two weekend masses, at this writing, instead of three. With his loss of energy, he says, "I would like to be doing a lot more, but I have to be honest with myself — I'm not *superman* anymore."

While his family sees him now as a very different person, he says, "They are all very supportive; I am very blessed by them." They take turns taking him to the Cleveland Clinic for chemo, where his doctors have become very special people to him. He tells the story of a recent visit to his palliative doctor, with his wife and a son present. As the doctor finished checking him, Dave suddenly sat up and announced, "Hello, Bishop!" The surprised doctor burst out laughing, saying, "Do you think that's better than being a doctor?" And they all laughed.

Dave says that although he does not see himself as a comedian, he always tries to put his sense of humor into everyday life, and finds some people too grim. He says, "We will bury ourselves, literally, if we don't come up with laughter when things are serious."

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Sometimes he finds it hard to remember things, a name or a detail. But he doesn't like to dwell on maudlin things, and prefers to make a joke of it, instead. As when this writer said she had the same problem remembering things as he did, but wasn't on chemo and didn't have an excuse. He said he doesn't like to use chemo as a excuse, but maybe in my case it was because I was older!

He was forgiven for his "dig," because he's a dog lover, too. The importance animals play in improved health of those who are facing illness or aging has been documented. So it comes as no surprise that a big joy in Dave's life now is his dog, a Cavalier King Charles, who, he says, "is very important to me. We have a good time together, and I talk to him like a person."

He's not angry with God that his life is coming to an end. "It's not easy," he says. "There are still some good things in the wings, but I'm leaving it up to the Lord."

So what is Dave's greatest blessing? "Taking my daughter down the aisle on her wedding day, being on the altar, accepting her vows, and giving a homily as Presider at the mass, is something I will never forget."

Dave, you are a gentle giant whose God-given gifts have been put to good use here at St. Lad's. No matter what comes down the pike, we will never forget you, either.

- Mary Clemens

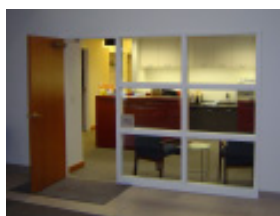


## The Parish Construction Project: An Update

The pastor and the parish staff moved into the new addition on the east side of the building just before Christmas. The parish offices include a reception area, offices for each staff member, a kitchenette, a conference room and a work room. The transition has gone very smoothly – thanks be to God!

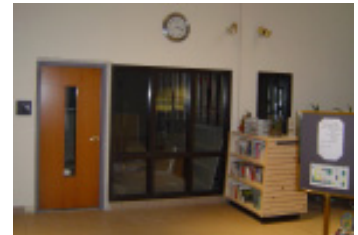
The addition on the Bassett side of the building should soon be completed. It is transitioning the former parish offices into some new meeting space along with three 'classroom' areas of approximately 20 by 30 ft. These class areas will house the Good Shepherd atrioms for the three age groups that make up the program: 3-6 year olds, 6-9 year olds and 9 – 12 year olds.

At the time of our printing the space was still being "roughed in" so not many photos were available. We hope to be setting up the new areas for parish use by Easter time.



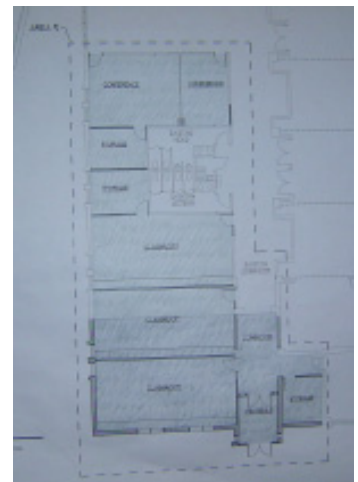
Looking into the New Offices from the Atrium

New Doorway from Atrium to Meeting Space



Inside the Work Area

Map of New Construction



Pastor's Doorway



## Fellowship at Hoolihan's

The Gospels tell us of the life and teachings of Jesus in stories, parables, and miracles. Have you ever considered how often a meal and food are central to the message?

Jesus performs his first miracle reluctantly at the wedding feast in Cana when he turns water into wine. Large crowds listen to Him, grow hungry, and are miraculously fed when loaves of bread and fish are multiplied. Several parables use the vineyard and those that tend them as their setting. We are judged on whether we have fed the hungry. And finally, Jesus shares his most important time with his friends at the Last Supper with bread and wine. Clearly, food and meals are dominant in New Testament life.

It would be natural then for a pastor in our times to continue gathering with his parishioners around a meal. This occurred at St. Ladislav Church in January, 2000, when Father Don and parishioner Ed Menger decided to plan a monthly

dinner meal on a Wednesday evening. There was to be no hidden agenda - this was time for a pastor and his parishioners to get to know each other. With the coordinating help of Ed and Jerry Wolf, Father Don has now shared an evening meal with 230 men at our church.

The venue has been a variety of restaurants, but to keep it simple, the monthly dinners are now held at Hoolihan's in Westlake. Yes, wine and beer and plenty of laughter are part of the shared experience. On one occasion, three men from a town in central Pennsylvania found out to their surprise that they had all attended the same school growing up. Many other small world stories have been shared. Most importantly, this is one small tradition at St. Ladislav Church that continues to strengthen our bonds of fellowship and community. Beginning in 2008, the dinner will now include dinner with women in the parish.

- John C. Alfes



## Food Items for the St. Ignatius Food Pantry

As part of our charitable giving this Lent, parishioners are invited to help fill the empty shelves of the Food Pantry located at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, our Church in the City partner. Distribution of food items takes place on the second Tuesday of each month; 400 or more people are currently receiving a three-day supply of food through the Pantry. **We need your help and are asking the parishioners of St Ladislav to bring in food items.** Each weekend when they come to Mass we will be collecting a particular food item.

**1st Sunday of Lent (2/9-10)**  
**Peanut Butter, Jelly.**

**2nd Sunday (2/16-17)**  
**Cereal**



**3rd Sunday (2/23-24)**

**Spaghetti Sauce, Dried Pasta, Canned Pasta**

**4th Sunday (3/1-2)**

**Tuna, Canned Chicken, Small Canned Hams**

**5th Sunday (3/8-9)**

**Canned Carrots, Canned Potatoes, & Canned Fruit**

**6th Sunday (3/15-16)**

**Hearty Canned Soups, Stews, & Chili**

When you bring in your food items place them at the designated location near the church doorways. **Thank you** in advance for your kindness and care for the needy and the poor!

## VIBRANT PARISH LIFE II — SOME FACTS

Directed by Bishop Lennon to develop a process to meet the pastoral needs of St. Bernadette and St. Ladislav parishes for the coming years, the Cluster Planning and Coordination Team members, consisting of parishioners and pastors, has been meeting over the past several months to build on the self-study findings of Vibrant Parish Life I, working on establishing goals for each focus area.

As we develop these goals we are looking at the demographic trends of our community, our current resources and structures, our financial status and a basic time line for short and long-term implementation.

Our areas of concentration include the continuing presence of a stable Catholic school, and continued collaboration between both parishes. For example: sharing training of Liturgical Ministers, Penance services, and speakers, etc.

Another focus is the development of an Evangelization program, which Martha Bober is coordinating. Since we are called as apostles to go forth and share the message of Jesus, this will be a clear opportunity to share and deepen our faith. The goals of Evangelization are threefold: 1) deepen the faith and participation of active Catholics, 2) share our faith and attempt to heal any division of those baptized and separated from the church, and 3) to reach out and invite new members to the Catholic faith.

It is exciting to be developing this program. There are many resources available to us and, coupled with the vibrancy of St. Lad's, we are sure to make an impact on our community. As this committee is formed, will you consider and answer the call to be an apostle with us?

Having established these goals we are now called to live the mission of the Church in new ways so that we may continue developing a vibrant Catholic community in Westlake.

- Donna Phalen, St. Lad's Parishioner  
Member of VPL Cluster Planning Team



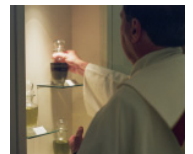
## Come Celebrate the Holy Week Liturgy

The central event of the Church's liturgy is called the TRIDUUM. It is a celebration of three unique liturgies over the course of three days; yet in spirit a unified whole, portraying the Paschal mystery of salvation – the dying and rising of Jesus, the Christ.

Ironically many Catholics have never attended even one of these liturgies. What a loss!

Mark you calendars now and plan to attend on

- Thursday evening, March 20 for the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper (*featuring the new sacramental oils, the washing of feet, Eucharist procession, the altar of Repose and vigil of prayer*)
- Friday afternoon, March 21 for the Celebration of the Lord's Passion (*featuring the reading of the Passion and the public veneration of the Cross*)
- And Saturday night, March 22 for the Easter Vigil liturgy (*featuring the service of the light, the Liturgy of the Word and the Initiation Sacraments for the Catechumens*)





**Saint Ladislas**  
**Roman Catholic Church**  
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## Upcoming Parish Events

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|-----------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| <b>Feb 6</b>          | Ash Wednesday; Lent begins                                 | <b>Mar 20</b>       | Holy Thursday                               |
| <b>Feb 13, 20, 27</b> | Lenten Lunch Program – 12 noon                             | <b>Mar 21</b>       | Good Friday                                 |
| <b>Feb 15</b>         | Parish Fish Fry  | <b>Mar 22</b>       | Holy Saturday                               |
| <b>Feb 16</b>         | Women’s Prayer Day: “Spirituali-tea”                       | <b>Mar 23</b>       | Easter Sunday                               |
| <b>Feb 17, 18, 19</b> | Parish Annual Lenten Mission with Sr Melannie Svoboda, SND | <b>Apr 6, 7, 10</b> | Generations of Faith Session                |
| <b>Feb 29</b>         | Parish Fish Fry  | <b>Apr 19</b>       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation for Children |
| <b>Mar 2, 3, 6</b>    | Generations of Faith Session                               | <b>Apr 19, 20</b>   | 50 + Bake Sale                              |
| <b>Mar 5, 12</b>      | Lenten Lunches continue                                    | <b>May 3</b>        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion at weekend        |
| <b>Mar 11</b>         | Lenten Penance Service (at St. Bernadette)                 | <b>May 17</b>       | Masses                                      |
| <b>Mar 14</b>         | Parish Fish Fry  |                     | Confirmation Ritual                         |

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