

Mother of Good Counsel Congregation

- A Great Catholic Faith Community!

The Chronicle



MOTHER OF
GOOD COUNSEL

March 1, 2005

The Chronicle is published 3 times each year by Mother of Good Counsel Parish, the Rev. Carey Lahrs, SDS, Pastor. Editorial review provided by Fr. Carey Lahrs, Pastor, Christine Weidner, Administrator, and Jim Van Hoven, Development Director. Thanks to all those who helped with this edition!

Published three times a year in August, November & March
Issue: 3/04-05

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Welcome to this edition of *The Chronicle*, which highlights our parish school. MGC School has always been and continues to be an integral part of our parish life. As most of you know, I was a high school teacher for 30 years before becoming a pastor.

Occasionally, I have missed my days in the classroom; and this year I have had a chance to take up my old career on a limited basis. We have a single large 8th grade class, and I have begun helping tutor some of the students in math. (I don't know how the principal found out that in addition to biology, I also taught math in high school.)

I have often heard criticism of students today, especially that they just don't care about learning and don't appreciate the value of education. Let me tell you, this is not true for our students here at MGC. My experience has shown me that our students do see and appreciate the education

From the Ambo

they are receiving from a dedicated group of wonderful teachers.

I find the students willing to work hard to understand concepts in math that are challenging. I don't hear phrases like, "This is too hard." or "I just can't get this." Rather the students keep trying, with help, to practice and learn to solve the problems.

The work of everyone associated with MGC School, administration, teachers and staff is something we can all be proud of as we carry out this ministry of our parish and the church.

God Bless You,

Fr. Carey
Pastor



Left: Regina Shaw, Principal & Fr. Carey Lahrs, Pastor prepare some of the Christmas gifts donated by the parish to families in need.



Above: On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday the children help Fr. Carey "bury" the Alleluias. We proclaim Alleluia again at Easter!

Left: Fr. Carey directs students in the placement of new song books. The books replace a subscription service and are paid for in part by memorials.



The Chronicle

Please Join Us For Worship & Spiritual Growth during Lent and Holy Week

Weekend Masses: Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. & Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday at 8:15 a.m.

Ecumenical Lenten Service Wednesday, February 16	7:00 PM - All pastors will lead the service followed by fellowship in Paulik Hall. The theme is "Temptations" and instrumentalists from all the congregations will provide music for worship.
2 nd Sunday in Lent Sunday, February 20	8:30 AM - Mass 9:30 AM - Christian Women's Breakfast Meeting 10:30 AM - Mass and Children's Liturgy of the Word. 11:45 AM - Fr. Carey offers a free class in the church, "The Gospel of Matthew". 4:00 PM - Stations of the Cross led by the MGC Choir.
Ecumenical Lenten Service Wednesday, February 23	7:00 PM - Pastors from Mother of Good Counsel and St. Catherine's Catholic Churches lead a service on the "Transfiguration" followed by fellowship in Paulik Hall.
3 rd Sunday in Lent Sunday, February 27	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM - Mass 11:45 AM - Fr. Carey offers a free class in the church, "The Gospel of Mark". 4:00 PM - Stations of the Cross led by MGC Human Concerns Committee.
Ecumenical Lenten Service Wednesday, March 2	7:00 PM - Pastors from Trinity Presbyterian Church and Albright United Methodist Church lead services on "The Woman at the well" followed by fellowship in Paulik Hall.
4 th Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 6	8:30 AM - Mass 10:30 AM - Mass and Children's Liturgy of the Word. 11:45 AM - Fr. Carey offers a free class in the church, "The Gospel of Luke". 4:00 PM - Stations of the Cross led by Parish Council.
Ecumenical Lenten Service Wednesday, March 9	7:00 PM - Pastors from Bethel Bethany UCC and Immanuel Reformed UCC lead service followed by fellowship in Paulik Hall. The theme is "The Blind Man".
5 th Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 13	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM - Mass 11:45 AM - Fr. Carey offers a free class in the church, "The Gospel of John". 4:00 PM - Stations of the Cross led by the Christian Women's Society.
Ecumenical Lenten Service <i>and</i> Communal Penance Service Wednesday, March 16	7:00 PM - All pastors from all churches will co-preside at the service followed by fellowship in Paulik Hall. The theme is "Lazarus" and all choirs will provide worship music together. 7:00 PM - The Archdiocese's District 12 will hold a penance service at St. Margaret Mary Parish.
Communal Penance Service Saturday, March 19	1:00 PM - The Archdiocese's District 12 will hold a penance service at St. Bernard's Parish in Wauwatosa.
Palm Sunday Sunday, March 20	7:00 AM - Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast, All Welcome, Serving until 1:00 PM in Paulik Hall. 8:30 AM - Mass 10:30 AM - Mass including Children's Procession with Palms & Children's Liturgy of the Word. 11:45 AM - Fr. Carey offers a free class in the church, "Summary of the Gospels".
Holy Thursday Thursday, March 24	8:30 AM - Liturgy of the Hours. 7:00 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet.
Good Friday Friday, March 25	8:30 AM - Liturgy of the Hours. 12:00 PM - Children's Services 1:30 PM - Solemn Services (Free babysitting)
Holy Saturday Saturday, March 26	8:30 AM - Liturgy of the Hours 7:30 PM - Vigil of Easter & Mass of Easter, Reception in Vestibule to follow. <i>No morning Mass/Confessions</i>
Easter Sunday, March 27	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM - Mass

Third Graders Save Soles

What do you do with your old, tired, worn-out sneakers? You probably throw them away, buy a new pair, and forget about them. Both third grades organized an athletic shoe recycling drive to keep these old discarded shoes out of our landfills. It's part of the Nike Corporation's *Reuse-A-Shoe* Program. Nike developed special machinery that will recycle old tennis shoes and turn them into a product called Nike Grind. This material is then returned to Milwaukee and used to make playground surfaces, basketball courts, and running tracks for area playgrounds.

Our school collected over 300 pairs of athletic shoes in just a few weeks time. Even though our shoe drive has officially ended, we are setting up a donation box near our Lost and Found in the school and another box in the church lobby to keep this project going for the rest of the year. The third graders want to save your soles, too! - *Mrs. Saeger*, 3rd Grade Teacher

K-4 Students Learn the Meaning of Easter

Mrs. Sanfelippo's K-4 class has just celebrated 100 days in school. We have accomplished many things, and have tried to serve others. We have collected old tennis shoes to be used to repave playgrounds and we participated in the *Jump Rope for Heart* which raises money for our school.

We are learning about Lent and how we can better serve Jesus. We received ashes with the rest of the school on Ash Wednesday. We are reading a Scripture Passage a day to help us better understand what Easter really means - Jesus' Death and Resurrection so that we might have eternal life with Him in Heaven. We are participating in Operation Rice Bowl to help out those less fortunate than us. We are learning how to show our love for God and one another. We have made giant strides for such little feet, which demonstrates how big our hearts are! - *Mrs. Sanfelippo*, 4K Grade Teacher

Celebrate with Music at MGC School

All children sing in their annual grade level concert and look forward to being on the stage with the class, singing, dancing, or playing instruments. Extra-curricular opportunities for band, Pop Chorus and private piano lessons are available to students at MGC School. Pop Chorus meets weekly, and then takes their music to share at nursing homes and public concerts. This year they will participate in the Archdiocesan Children's Choral Festival at historic St. Joseph Convent Chapel on Saturday, April 23. We thank you for your support and want you to be proud of us. We are truly "Proud to Be-- M-G-C!" - *Mrs. Chris Kolanko*, Music Teacher

Toddler's Playgroup Begins Just In Time To Prevent Cabin Fever!

Almost a dozen parents and toddlers met for the first of many play dates in the ECP rooms in the School's Alumni Hall. The parents and children enjoyed having access to all of the bikes, balls, games and supplies used by the children who attend MGC's Extended Care Program and Day Camps. Of special interest was the opportunity to play all of the outdoor games that the children can not participate in during the winter. Parents and toddlers are invited to join this free play group from 9:00 to 10:30 AM on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. For additional information call me at (414) 442-7600, ext. 123. - *Denise Schienke*, ECP Director

Classroom News



Above: Parishioner, alumni and school parents share a laugh while helping their children make new friends.

The Chronicle

Administrator's Report

Welcome to Mother of Good Counsel!

For some time our parish and school have been focusing on letting the world know about MGC and its great families and alumni.

If you live in the neighborhoods surrounding MGC you probably have seen some of our fun and inspirational post cards and flyers, in addition to our website. Thanks to the work of our creative staff and fantastic committee members, we are working toward building our parish and growing our school enrollment. As a result we had a fantastic School Open House in early February, and new parishioner registrations are being received.

It's always fun when alums come back to MGC to see how "the old place" looks. Many comment on how things have and have not changed. MGC still focuses on building and supporting families through its social family-oriented community building events and spiritually rewarding programs, services and ministries. This is due to the great people who make up our faith community.

We have a good plan to spread the word about MGC. One of the MOST important components of our success is YOU. Yes, You!

Whether you are an active member, an alum living in another state, or a retired person living away from MGC... you are vital to our success. Through your prayers, we can successfully reach out to families and invite them to know more about our great faith place!

For all of us who are fortunate to call MGC home, we ask for your continued prayers and support... and a little more. We ask that you invite your friends, family and neighbors to MGC Church and School... and to greet every visitor coming to MGC for Mass and special events. Who can

resist a BIG smile and a warm handshake??? After all... that's one of the things we do best!

God bless you!

Christine Weidner, Administrator



Above: Prospective school parents meet with Regina Shaw at our recent Open House.



Above: Emcee John Miller asks the lovely "Vanna" (Mary Lou) Eggert to show the crowd a bible autographed by Archbishop Dolan. Many people bid on this bible.

Wine Tasting & Auction: Another Huge Success!

MGC's Home & School Association just finished its major fundraiser for the school year, and what a success it was! The MGC Auction and Wine Tasting event, held on Saturday, February 5th, was enjoyed by many parish and school families and friends. Thanks to the support of so many in our community, the auction raised almost \$27,000 which will be used to support the education of the students at MGC. Our sincere "Thanks" goes out to everyone who supported this event.

The 222 people who attended were able to sample and enjoy a variety of wines, dine on delicious hors d'oeuvres and dessert, and enjoy wonderful entertainment as they reviewed the 130 items that were up for bid. There was something for everyone, and a little friendly competition to be the "winners" helped raise the money we were hoping for. If you did not have the opportunity to attend the auction this year, please try to schedule in this event next year. It is a guaranteed good time!

- *Chris Tourtilot & Sue Minton*

Right: Parishioners and school families enjoy fellowship while planning their next bid.





Left: Regina Shaw, Principal poses with 8th Grade academic award winners.

School News

From the beginning, Mother of Good Counsel has stood for excellence in education; but it's always been about more than that. Over the years, many have chosen MGC because they knew that this community cared deeply for its children. The Catholic education that children receive today at MGC is preparing them for the challenges that they will face in the future.

Schools are being asked to fill many more roles in the lives of children. Just think, for many of us penmanship class has been replaced by technology classes where children must learn to keyboard with speed and precision while at the same time learning about high-speed internet usage, e-mail, networking, word-processing, spread sheets, PowerPoint presentations and so much more! Technology has broadened the possibilities for our students, but the cost of providing and maintaining current technology for our students and teachers is sometimes overwhelming.

There are so many different ways that are used to measure the success of a school. I don't believe that any one measure is able to accurately reflect a school so I will share some of the measures that I value.

Including myself, there are currently 23 professional educators on our faculty. Our tenures at MGC range from one to twenty-eight years, with the average being nearly eleven years. I am very proud of that statistic. Of our 23 educators, three of them are alumni of our school (Judy Filut, Sandy Pupp and Megan O'Brien Garczynski). On page 3 several teachers share examples of how we teach our students our faith and encourage them in sharing their talents with others. I believe that this speaks well for both them and for our school.

In order for students to earn Honor Roll status at MGC, they must first be in grades four through eight. Secondly, their grade point average must be a minimum of 3.2. Many schools recognize honor roll as 3.0 and higher, but we decided to "raise the bar" a bit higher. Out of our 165 students in grades 4 – 8, 87 of them achieved Honor Roll recognition for the second quarter of this school year. That is quite an accomplishment!

Our students continue to do well in both standardized testing and on high school entrance exams. As you know, these measure students to other students around the country.

The vast majority of our 8th grade graduates go on to one of our area Catholic high schools (Marquette University High School, DSHA, Dominican, Messmer, St. Joan Antida & Pius). MGC students are actively recruited by all of these high schools every year. They know that there is something special about an MGC graduate!

Weekly attendance as a class is still important to us. Our children prepare and participate in the liturgy. How many of you remember the first time you were allowed to process or lector? These are still important to us today. Sacramental preparation is an on-going process. Students in 2nd grade are currently preparing to receive their First Eucharist.

This is a major milestone in the life of a young Catholic child. In May, we come together to celebrate May Day and to recognize our devotion to Mary. Before Christmas and Easter, all school students are offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We take our obligation to prepare faith-filled individuals very seriously.

I thank you for your continued and generous support of our school. The cost of educating children today continues to rise, and tuition covers only a small portion of the actual cost. Families continue to struggle to meet their tuition obligations, and I continue to struggle to find ways to assist them. Without you it would be much more difficult.

What we are doing here at MGC is very good for our children, for our church, and for our community. Thank you for the privilege of serving this community!

God bless you and your family!

Regina Shaw, Principal

Right: Regina Shaw, Principal congratulates Michael Saito and Troy Sterling-Williams. Michael was named Principal for a Day by the Home & School Association as the #1 magazine sales person. Troy was named to the Catholic Middle School's All Star Team by the Archdiocese.



The Chronicle

Mother of Good Counsel School Presents:
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
The Sound of Music

Alumni Hall

Friday, March 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 13, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.



Strap on the lederhosen, pack up your rucksack and join the 8th Grade class of Mother of Good Counsel School as they present "The Sound Of Music". Enjoy this song filled story of a family's renewal through faith, love and courage. The student class will "Climb Every Mountain" in search of "Edelweiss" and a new future.

To order tickets, please fill out the form and return it *with your check* to:
Prepaid tickets will be held at the box office for the performance you have selected.
Please respond as soon as possible!

MGC School
3001 N. 68th Street
Milwaukee, WI
53210-1299

Name: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Please hold _____ tickets at \$5.00 each at the box office for the show on:

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY (Note: We can only hold prepaid tickets)
(Circle One)

If you have any questions please call Sue Minton at 414-258-5875 or Leroy Green at 262-252-2536

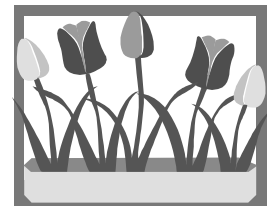
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All Women Parishioners, School Moms and Alumni are invited to attend

The Christian Women's Society **Annual Spring Luncheon**

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

12:00 Noon

Alioto's Restaurant



For reservations call after 6:00 PM: Kathy Grothe, (414) 774-1898 or Mary Gebert, (414) 476-8085.



Do you need quality childcare during school breaks?

MGC's Extended Care Program offers "camps" during most school breaks including this Easter. Go to the parish website at www.mgcparish.org and scroll to the bottom of the page to read about the latest program. Or call the ECP office at (414) 442-7600, ext. 123 and ask for a brochure.


Right & Left: Christmas campers enjoy making snowmen outside on the church lawn.





Say Cheese!
MGC Invites All Parish, School & Alumni Families
to have your picture taken for our
2005 Photo Directory



To celebrate our 80th Anniversary, MGC will work with  to create a new Photo Directory. All parish & school families who participate receive:



- ◆ A free 8" x 10" portrait photograph of their family
- ◆ A free 2005 Parish & School Photo Directory for their home
- ◆ The opportunity to purchase additional pictures, if interested.

Available Times:
Thursday, April 14
 between 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Friday, April 15
 between 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Saturday, April 16
 between 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday, May 2
 between 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Tuesday, May 3
 between 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Wednesday, May 4
 between 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Thursday, May 5
 between 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Friday, May 6
 between 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Saturday, May 7
 between 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



To reserve a time for a FREE family portrait, please return this form to:

Jim Van Hoven, Director of Development & Volunteers (414) 442-7600, ext. 105
 Mother of Good Counsel Parish & School (414) 444-0408, Fax
 6924 W. Lisbon Avenue vanhoven@mgcparish.org
 Milwaukee, WI 53210-1259

_____ Yes, our family would like to make a reservation for a *free* family portrait for the MGC Photo Directory. We will receive a call or card confirming our reservation time. After reviewing the schedule, please make a reservation at the time nearest to our preferred time:

Day: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone # or Email: _____



Calling All Alumni!

ALL CLASS REUNION NEWS!

Mother of Good Counsel School will host an All Class Reunion Weekend this year to celebrate our 80th Anniversary. *Please hold the date of:*



3:30 PM
 5:00 PM
 6:00 PM

Tour of School
 Mass with Parish
 Reception in School Cafeteria

Saturday
October 8, 2005

You are invited to join the All Class Reunion Planning Committee. We will only hold 2 meetings to plan the October reunion. Call Jim Van Hoven, Development Director, if interested at (414) 442-7600, ext. 105 or via email at vanhoven@mgcparish.org. All alumni with current addresses on file with the parish will receive an invitation this summer.

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Easter 2005 Decoration Appeal

MGC Parishioners, School Families and Alumni are invited to support the Easter Decoration Appeal. You may honor family and friends, both living and deceased, and provide for a beautiful worship environment.

Dear Fr. Carey:

As we prepare to celebrate Our Lord's Resurrection, we would like to make a gift to celebrate the lives of the following people. We have enclosed \$10 per person and understand these funds will be used to purchase flowers and decorations for the church.

Directions: Enter the names of loved ones you would like to remember with a donation to the MGC Easter Decoration Appeal. Please check living or deceased. All gifts for those living will be *In Honor Of* and all gifts for those deceased will be *In Memory Of*. You may also choose to make a gift *In Thanksgiving For Blessings Received*.

Person's Name: _____ Living? _____ Deceased? _____

Person's Name: _____ Living? _____ Deceased? _____

Person's Name: _____ Living? _____ Deceased? _____

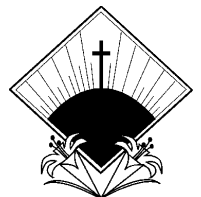
If sharing thanks for blessings received, please check here: _____

Given By: (Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____



If you would like to consider other gifts, please contact the Development Director at (414) 442-7600, ext. 105

Memorials and Honorariums received by March 15th will be acknowledged in our Easter bulletin. Gifts received after that time will be acknowledged in an April bulletin.