

Mother of Good Counsel Congregation  
- A Catholic Faith Community

# The Chronicle

## Bring Your Family to Church



MOTHER OF  
GOOD COUNSEL

August 6, 2004  
Transfiguration of the Lord

### Parish Mission Statement:

"Mother of Good Counsel is a welcoming, diverse Catholic Christian community. We strive to make our Savior known to people of all ages through prayer, worship, education and service. We commit ourselves to be an anchor of stability in our neighborhood and beyond by collaborating with our cluster parishes and other faith communities and cooperating with civic groups."

Issued three times a year  
in August,  
November & February  
Issue: 1/04-05

Mother of Good Counsel  
Church  
6924 W. Lisbon Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

Mother of Good Counsel  
School  
3001 N. 68<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

Phone: (414) 442-7600  
mgc@mgcparish.org  
www.mgcparish.org

**G**reetings and welcome to this late Summer edition of the Chronicle. Our focus this issue is on carrying out our obligation to live our faith. Attending Mass each Sunday is one of the "Ten Commandments" and is a serious obligation for all Catholics.

I am often asked, "What happened Father, there used to be a lot more people in church? Now it seems that people just don't care." I sometimes answer by saying, "Well, we don't send people to hell for missing Mass anymore." This response is facetious but it does make you wonder if there is some truth in it.

Although fear is not the best motive for living our obligations, it does often work. Any of us would find it hard to believe that someone wants a loving and caring relationship with us if they rarely talked to

us, came to see us and found all manner of excuses to avoid being with us.

Every parish is only as strong as the parishioners who make up the faith community. It is my hope and prayer that all Catholics develop a loving relationship with God and carry out the obligations we have accepted by our baptism, not out of fear but out of love and a desire to do what is right.

Coming to church, teaching family to know and love God, and especially letting our children see the importance of God in our lives are the goals of living our faith.

God Bless You and "See you in Church."

Fr. Carey Lahrs, SDS, Pastor



**Left:** MGC's St. Vincent de Paul Society donates to the food pantry at St. Martin de Porres Parish. Claude Calhoun, Fr. Carey, Joe Bradley and Don Roethig load cases of food.

**Right:** MGC co-sponsors the Memorial Day services at Calvary Cemetery. Fr. Carey and Deacon Dean Collins elevate the bread and wine for a crowd of 400+. Picture: Courtesy of Tom Heinen, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



# The Chronicle

## *Human Concerns Needs You!*

### **Grandparents Day Mum Sale – Weekend of Sept. 11-12**

The MGC Human Concerns Committee will be sponsoring the Grandparents Day Mum Sale after all Liturgies on the weekend of Sept. 11-12. Each large, beautiful mum plant costs only \$10 with the proceeds to benefit Northwest Interfaith. MGC is one of the 13 congregations located on Milwaukee's northwest side sponsoring Northwest Interfaith, a neighborhood outreach program providing practical assistance and information to help frail or isolated older adults remain in their own homes and neighborhood. Giving a lovely mum plant is a most wonderful way to celebrate grandparents, parents, or any older adult who's made a meaningful contribution to your life. Hope to see you at our plant table at the East Entrance or in the Church Vestibule.

### **October – Respect Life Month**

To help our MGC parishioners become more informed and to add more meaning to Respect Life Month, the MGC Human Concerns Committee plans on distributing thought-provoking literature on such topics as: death penalty, euthanasia, birth control, ethics of health care, establishing stable families, human trafficking and abortion. Roundtable discussion sessions on these and other topics dealing with respect life will be scheduled throughout October. The members of Human Concerns hope that our parishioners will be interested in learning from each other through sharing ideas.

### **Faithful Citizenship – Election 2004**

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue. Thus, participating in the political process is a moral obligation. In this presidential election year, it is important that we, the parishioners of MGC, become informed, active, and responsible! As part of its mandate from the Archdiocese, the MGC Human Concerns Committee sought and received permission from the parishioners and Parish Council to promote a non-partisan Faithful Citizenship campaign focusing on getting out the vote as well as information on the Catholic approach based on moral principles found in Scripture and Catholic social teaching.

To achieve the goal of getting out the vote, members of the Human Concerns Committee will conduct **voter registration** after all liturgies on the weekend of October 9-10. As our community moves toward the primary election on Sept. 14 and the Presidential election on November 2, look for notices in the bulletin, special inserts, plus distribution of pamphlets and brochures dealing with Faithful Citizenship.

### **Needed – Members**

Would you like to put the Gospel message of peace and justice, and the principles of Catholic social teaching into action? The Human Concerns Committee offers abundant opportunities to put your faith into action. The time commitment is minimal – a meeting once per month from Sept. to May and a few Sunday mornings for special events like selling roses. Think about joining- then call Kathy or Bob Grothe at 774-1898 to sign up.



**Hunger Banquet a success!** Human Concerns sponsored a Hunger Banquet in Paulik Hall to raise funds for the needy and to raise awareness of how common hunger is around the world. Each participant enjoyed lots of fellowship and a simple meal of soup, bread and fruit.

## Religious Education

### It All Begins Again!!

September is the month when all the activities begin again for the Religious Education Department. But before you think I have been sitting around drinking lemonade and reading a novel these past few months I want to tell you that a good portion of the summer was spent planning for the coming year.

Religious Education classes for young people from 4 years of age through 11th grade and Confirmation begin on **September 26th**. Sacrament classes and parent meetings are scheduled. The first meeting will be on **September 19th** at 7:00 PM. This will be for parents and juniors in high school who would like to be confirmed in the spring.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) will also start to meet in late September. If you know anyone who has questions about the Catholic Faith and/or who wants to start the process of becoming full members of our community they should plan on attending these sessions which will begin on **September 22nd**. We will meet in the parish library at 7:00 PM.

Class trips to the Cathedral, St. Josaphat's Basilica, St. Thomas More clinic and food center, as well as a trip to a temple have all been arranged.

Monthly school prayer services are all set. Our first one is the Blessing of the Children on **September 15th** at 8:30 AM.

And as I write this I am in the middle of our annual Vacation Bible School. This wonderful action packed week is a time when 107 of our children and 50 volunteers learn more about the God who loves them. This learning takes place in story form, songs, games, crafts and other activities.

While it is a busy week, it is a joy to watch our little ones have so much fun and learn more about their faith. Of course, the best part for me is the comments I hear from our parishioners and teens who tell me that they just must help because it is such fun.

Mother of Good Counsel is a very alive parish and the Religious Education Department is one of the busiest places but it is also one of the programs where the smiles, hugs and fun make everything else worth it.

- Clairemary McDermott, SDS, DRE



**Above:** Mary Ellen Hansen, '04, crowns the statue of Mother of Good Counsel at the conclusion of the May Crowning. Over 400 parishioners, teachers, and students attended the service.



**Right:** Fr. Carey reviews VBS and thanks parish, school and alumni volunteers for their help.

**Left:** Clairemary leads the 2nd Grade Retreat and prepares children for First Communion.



# The Chronicle

## Administrator's Report

### Past – Present & Future

In the past several years we have been making a real effort to encourage everyone to attend mass - to "bring their families to church" and to send their children to our Catholic school. Why?

Because we know that our parishioners and our alumni make a "real difference" in the world. Maybe they do or maybe they don't become famous... but what they surely do is take the values they learned at MGC and translate them into their lives, their families and their communities.

This is one of the many reasons our alumni stay in touch, in one way or another. And, its probably why they continue to support our parish and school, not only financially, but also through some of the big "P's"... sharing their **PROFESSIONS**, being **PRESENT** in the community and school, and through **PRAYER**.

One of the other big "P's" is our **PARENTS**. They're a unique group of people who are trying so hard to raise their families with Christian principles and they have made a big sacrifice not only to budget their tuition, but to also be role models for their children by being involved and by their commitment to being Catholic.

We are so grateful to everyone who is involved, past – present and future – for supporting our church and our school. We couldn't do it without you! And, YOU make a difference! - *Christine Weidner, Administrator*



Alumni, parishioners, parents and students clear the playground of old mulch in preparation for loads of new mulch. MGC could not succeed without the help of dedicated volunteers of all ages! Thank you all!



Grace Callen, MGC Christ Child Society Chairperson presents a check from MGC parishioners for \$440 to pay for Layette supplies to Pat Driscoll, Layette Chairperson (left) and Kathy Powers, Layette Volunteer (right).



St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center staff receive a donation of layettes for distribution to new mothers in need of support.

Family Care Center staffers Karen RN and Sharon, Nursing Assistant, accept the Christ Child donation of Layettes funded in part by MGC parishioners from Grace Callen, parishioner.

## From the Principal's Desk

Those of you who know me or who regularly read *The Chronicle* know that I consider regular church attendance to be very important. For my family, it is simply a part of our lives, one that is not optional. My husband and I have two teenage sons who know that this is non-negotiable; in fact it's not even discussed.

As we prepare for the start of a new school year, I encourage each of you to make a firm commitment to regular worship. Most of us have so many blessings in our lives; blessings for which we owe thanks to God. It seems only reasonable to me that we each take at least one hour a week to thank God for all that He bestows upon us.

Our relationship with God is the most important relationship we will ever have. However, it cannot be one-sided. Imagine how your friendships would wither and die if you didn't nurture them.

If weekly church attendance is not part of your family life, I urge you, as a family, to discuss this and to make a firm commitment. You might even consider a written contract.

The MGC School philosophy states that parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Please be certain that you are teaching your children this important life habit. Here at school they are learning the value of attending church. Let's not send them mixed messages.

May God continue to bestow His blessings upon you and your families. Faithfully, *Regina Shaw*, Principal

## School News



**Left:** People enjoyed browsing and bidding on great auction items, greeting old friends and making new ones.

**Right:** Susan Stoner, '82 sang for everyone's supper accompanied by Santo Mortillaro



## Home & School Association Annual Wine Tasting & Auction exceeds goal!

This year the Home and School Association planned to build on the successes of last year's Wine Tasting and Auction. The committee led by Mike and Nancy Hansen set a goal of \$10,000. To achieve their goal, the committee secured additional auction items to bid on, added music and marketed to a broader range of alumni and parishioners.

John Miller, school parent, served as auctioneer again with great results. At the end of the auction over \$17,000 was raised exceeding the group's target goal by 70% and almost tripling the income. This "all parish and school" event had Mardi Gras as the theme.

The Wine Tasting & Auction committee asks all friends of MGC School to hold the date of **Saturday, February 5, 2005**. Invitations will go out in the mail after the first of the year. If you, your employer or organization would like to donate items to be auctioned off, please contact Jim Van Hoven, Development Director at (414) 442-7600 or [vanhoven@mgcparish.org](mailto:vanhoven@mgcparish.org). To learn more about the event or to register in advance, you can go to the Milwaukee Magazine calendar of events and click on February 5, 2005 and then MGC. <http://www.milwaukeeemagazine.com/ceg/calendar.html>.



John Winter inspects the play house built by school dads. It was won by Cady's Kids Day Care.

# The Chronicle

## Alumni News

### Fr. Thomas Cassidy, SCJ, ('56) named President/Rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology

I was a student at MGC during the baby-boom years following World War II. It was a time when *think big* was true even in parish schools. I remember well traveling to DC on my senior high school trip on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and running into a high school where all, yes all 28 seniors were on the tour. That blew me away. Here I was graduating from Pius XI in 1960 with over 600 graduates and four years earlier from MGC with 180 plus graduates. I don't think I ever had a class of less than 40 during my eight years of grade school.

Despite the large size classes I received a quality education from a group of very dedicated sisters and in those days a few, very few, lay teachers. I am ever so grateful for the grounding my faith received in those formative grade school years. It gave me an enduring and abiding love of the Church and love of God that has carried me through difficult times along with the oh-so many-good ones.

That faith foundation MGC gave me led to my vocation as a member of the SCJs (Priests of the Sacred Heart). I sometimes marvel at how that vocation story unfolded. At the heart of any vocation is the divine call wrapped up in human invitations.

It was the sisters at MGC who more than once planted that seed into my soul. We wonder why vocations are lacking today! I believe it's because so few are out there planting the seed. Thomas Aquinas says: *Grace builds on nature*. I firmly believe that. It's the grace I received through the dedicated staff at MGC that has allowed me to grow into the person I am today.

v. Rev. Thomas Cassidy, scj  
President/Rector  
Sacred Heart School of Theology  
Hales Corners, WI



### Marvin Pohl, ('65)

I am an Account Manager for Hamilton Financial Equipment and married to Patricia Hebert. We live in Appleton, Wisconsin and have two glorious girls. My parents, Arnold and Marion are active members of MGC.

### Robert T. Teske, ('62) publishes article on growing up in Milwaukee

Bob Teske has written a memoir for *Milwaukee History: The Magazine of the Milwaukee County Historical Society* where he works. It includes a wonderful retrospective of Bob's years at MGC and is called "**Billie the Brownie, Foreman Tom, and Bart Starr: A Baby-Boomer's Childhood in Milwaukee**". Here is a brief excerpt:

"In addition to laying a rock solid foundation for my Catholic faith and grounding me in the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic and Palmer Method Penmanship.....Mother of Good Counsel Grade School also provided an extensive range of extracurricular activities to keep me amused during and after school. These included membership in Cub Scout Pack 61 and later Boy Scout Troop 61. Joining the Cub Scouts carried with it the added benefit of having my Mom serve as Den Mother, thereby giving her an excuse to have an even larger group of boys into our home than the group she had shipped out just a few years before. The Cub Scouts offered weekly after school meetings, treats, arts and crafts, and participation in the Scout Circus, sponsored by the entire Milwaukee County Council at the arena each year. The Boy Scouts offered more weekly meetings, merit badges and summer camps at Indian Mound Reservation—my mother's reward for serving as Den Mother when we were younger".

Both Cub Scout Pack 61 and Boy Scout Troop 61 continue to serve MGC School. To read more of Bob's article, look for Milwaukee History at your local library, contact him at the Milwaukee County Historical Society, (414) 273-8288 or via their website <http://www.milwaukeecountyhistsoc.org>



Check out our website at [www.mgcp parish.org](http://www.mgcp parish.org)



# Calling All Alumni! REUNION NEWS!

Mother of Good Counsel School is hosting a reunion weekend this fall. We will also hold All-Class Reunions every five years. *If your class is one of the first classes that are invited to join us for a reunion, please hold the date of:*

## October 9, 2004

- 3:30 PM - Tour with Regina Shaw, Principal  
Meeting with teachers
- 5:00 PM - Mass with class and parish
- 6:00 PM - Dinner with classmates in church hall  
or at a local restaurant

Classes of **1964** (40 yrs), **1974** (30 yrs), **1979** (25 yrs), **1984** (20 yrs) and **1989** (15 yrs) will receive invitations to this year's program in August. Volunteers from these classes who are willing to help coordinate the reunion are needed. Some alums have already volunteered to help with their class reunions. Call Jim Van Hoven, Development Director, if interested at (414) 442-7600, ext. 105 or via email at [vanhoven@mgcp parish.org](mailto:vanhoven@mgcp parish.org). The Class of **1954** (50 years) has mailed invitations and will meet Labor Day Weekend. The Class of **1994** (10 years) has already mailed invitations and will meet on October 9th with the other classes. Stay tuned for information on our next All-Class Reunion in 2005!

---

### *Alumni News & Notes:*

#### **Alumni: Share your news with MGC and the world!**

The Chronicle is mailed to over 1,100 parish families and 2,900 alumni. Please share your news about education, family, or career with us. Parents, remember to update your graduate's address when they move away from home.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Married to: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities/News to share with MGC Friends: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send Alumni update info to: The Chronicle, MGC, 6924 W. Lisbon Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53210-1259  
Or fax to: (414) 444-0408 or e-mail to: [mgc@mgcp parish.org](mailto:mgc@mgcp parish.org)

# The Chronicle

Mother of Good Counsel Congregation  
6924 West Lisbon Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53210-1259  
(414) 442-7600  
mgc@mgcparish.org  
www.mgcparish.org

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 480  
Milwaukee, WI

## Table of Contents

Fr. Carey's Letter..... 1  
Human Concerns ..... 2  
Religious Ed News..... 3  
Administrator's Report... 4  
Christ Child Society..... 4  
School News..... 5  
Wine Tasting & Auction.. 5  
Alumni News ..... 6  
Reunions & Your News ... 7  
Parish Picnic Invite ..... 8

---

## Mother of Good Counsel Parish & School Neighborhood Picnic Sunday, August 22, 2004

*Fr. Carey invites you* to join us for mass at 10:30 AM with picnic following. Enjoy the salads and desserts everyone will bring, and MGC provides meat, buns, drinks & roasted corn.

*Please bring a dish to pass:*

*A-M, bring salad or fruit ;N-Z, bring dessert.*

Complete & return in an envelope marked "Parish Picnic" with registration money by **August 18th**. In case of rain, we will move the Mass and picnic inside the school. No 8:30 AM Mass that day.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas; please check if interested and we will call you with details:

Setup Chairs/tables\_\_\_\_\_ Cooks\_\_\_\_\_ Food Line\_\_\_\_\_  
Cleanup\_\_\_\_\_ Kid's Games\_\_\_\_\_



Please register our family for the MGC Parish & School Picnic.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We will have:

Kids 5 years & under (Free):\_\_\_\_\_ Adults 75 yrs & Older (Free):\_\_\_\_\_

MGC Students (Free): \_\_\_\_\_ Religious Education Students (Free): \_\_\_\_\_

Children (age 6-18) at \$2 each:\_\_\_\_\_ Adults at \$5 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_