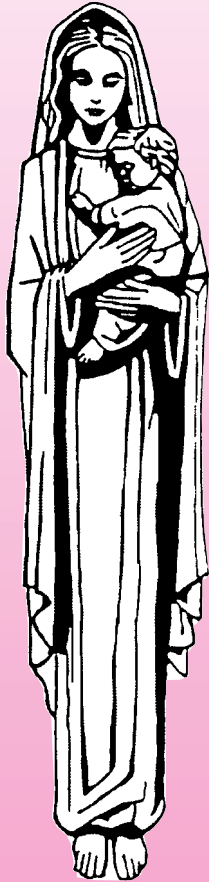


Mother of Good Counsel Congregation  
- A Catholic Faith Community

# The Chronicle

August, 2003



August 15, 2003

Three times a year  
in August,  
November & February

Issue: 1/03-04

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## From the Ambo...

**Welcome to The Chronicle!** I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. By the time you read this we will be gearing up our parish activities and starting another school year. We finished up a successful year at the school, graduating another wonderful class of "new alumni." This year we saw great developments in the technology programs at the school and parish.

During this summer, some of our parishioners have traveled on mission and on pilgrimage. Laura Urbaniak, one of our High School seniors, went on a mission trip to help the people in Belize. Deacon Dean Collins, his wife Karen along with Jim and Donna Bieser along accompanied Archbishop Dolan on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Pallium Mass. Be sure to read their stories of faith in service and faith renewed.

Plans are under way for our parish picnic on **September 28<sup>th</sup>**, and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend this event. A response form is enclosed. It is a good time for all and a fun way to celebrate with our MGC family.

I want to thank all our parishioners and benefactors who contribute their time, talent and treasure to our community and hope that you will continue to be active participants in this faith community.

God Bless You, **Fr. Carey**

P.S. I want to congratulate the new members of the three-person leadership team that will guide the Sisters of the Divine Savior's North American Province for three years. They are Provincial Sister Marion Etzel and Sister Jeanette Clarke, both graduates of Mother of Good Counsel Grade School, and Sister Carol Thresher, a former teacher at the school.



**Left: Fr. Carey joins Jerry Donohue, John Heider, Rosario Spella & Dick Wirth at the Annual MGC Men's Golf Outing**



**Right: Fr. Carey preaches at Mass.**

# The Chronicle

## ***Administrative Notes...***

***All around the country*** we are reading about churches and parish schools having a difficult time. In our own community most churches have scaled back their budgets, cut staff and wonder about their futures. At Mother of Good Counsel we are not immune to any of these issues, yet, through the grace of God we have made it through one of the most financially difficult years this parish has ever experienced!

We will close this fiscal year with a very significant loss. Even with that said, we have found a way to craft a "balanced" budget for this next fiscal year! This is nothing short of amazing. And, how did we do this? You can thank our parish and school staff for finding creative ways to cut their budgets and make it all work. Together with the School Committee's budget subcommittee, the Parish Council and the Finance Committee and hours of careful study and work, they produced a workable budget that most parishes would love to have – without significantly large losses to parish or school ministries and programs.

Most parishioners don't know that our parish staff enters this new fiscal year without a salary increase in two years. Our school staff also received no increases in their salaries or contracts for this coming year. However, should we have a good year financially. The Finance Committee together with the Parish Council will do whatever we can during the year to make increases possible. We are BLESSED beyond compare by our staff and faculty's trust, loyalty and love for Mother of Good Counsel!

We ask that you continue to pray daily for our parish. We know that the other IMPORTANT piece of our recent successes is that you have and continue to pray. May God bless us all as we joyfully continue to work together to make a difference in the lives of our parishioner families and our community!

In gratitude for your faithfulness,

***Christine Weidner, Administrator***

## ***Vacation Bible School: SonHarvest County Fair***



**Left:** Tony Kovoichich, Stephen Webb, Maribel Aranda lead the parachute game. Olivia & Victoria Lee, Gabriella Bush, Mia Johnson, Kenna Gallegos & Lily Garza share the fun.

Clairemary McDermott, DRE, led a group of 48 volunteers ranging in age from 14 to 70+ years at MGC's annual Vacation Bible School. Over 110 students participated in a program that taught them the fruits of the Holy Spirit and how to live them everyday.



**Left:** Aly Young, '97, leads a project for Maria Brandt & Michael Saito



**Left:** Parish Member Rosemary Hetzel helps a student with her art project.

## School News....

Summer serves many purposes. As I look back upon the 2002-2003 school year, I feel a great deal of satisfaction. A year ago at this time I spoke to you about the fact that I believe that we at MGC are building for the future. We nurture the people who will make tomorrow better. I was, and still am, very proud of that. In this edition of *The Chronicle* you can read about Laura Urbaniak. Her call to mission has made a difference in the world. Laura is one of many MGC alums who learned the value of outreach and service in our school.

Nancy Hansen and Sue Minton served as co-presidents of the Home and School Association for 2002-2003. Nancy and Sue wanted to focus on community building during the last school year. Did they ever!

Our Home and School Association kicked off the year with a well-attended Ice Cream Social. Throughout the year many other family and adult activities were sponsored by the Home and School Association. Their monthly newsletters served to keep all families well-informed. Right through the last week of school, when a "thank you" event was held, Nancy and Sue, along with other members of the board, worked diligently to accomplish their goals. I extend my sincere appreciation to Nancy, Sue and all parents who worked so hard this past year.

At the last Home and School meeting of the year, I shared with parents the results of this year's Iowa Tests of Basic Skills for students in grades 3, 5 and 7. Standardized test results should not be the only, or even the primary, indicator of a student's or a school's success. However, our results were *very good* news. Our seventh graders scored better than 79% of the

seventh grade students who took the same test, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored better than 80% of the fifth grade students who took the test, and our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored better than 87% of the third graders who took the test. We looked at each curricular area within the tests, and we know where our strengths and weaknesses are and plan to work to improve wherever we can.

I know that many of you are, yourselves, the product of Catholic education and that many of you also provided that opportunity to your own children. Tuition for this

coming year for a parishioner with one child will be \$2,434. The actual cost of educating a child at MGC is over \$5,000. Many of our parents struggle to meet this tuition. I work diligently to see that every dollar is spent in a way that will provide the most benefit to the children.

I thank those of you who provide school support through the school envelopes and/or the Annual Fund/ Polish the Diamond Appeal. If you do not currently contribute, I urge

you to please consider doing so. Please know that we remember all of you in our prayers. If any of you would be interested in providing additional tuition assistance to a family with special needs, please feel free to contact me.

I challenge anyone to find better, more-committed teachers than ours. And I challenge anyone to find parents more committed to their children, their church and their school. We truly are *Proud to be MGC!*

Remember that you are always welcome at our school. Call me at extension 119 to arrange a tour.

Faithfully, **Regina Shaw, Principal**



Merari Amaro	Teresa Gonzalez	Christopher Mc Miller	Angela Stanley
Carissa Battle	Katerina Grossman	Jennifer Michalek	Michael Stanosz
Jordan Bryant	Ryan Hanus	Maxwell Ries	Ronisha Taylor
Robert Carey-Peterson	Colleen Henley	Danilo Rivas	Julia Thorne
Emilio Coates	Sonja Hoehne	Theodore Rowan	Kevin Todt
Brian Dawson	Janee Holley	Megan Schumann	Christopher Trivison
Jordan Donald	Maurine Kwiatkowski	Andrew Sellers	Mailani Velez
Robert Ebner-Bridgman	Wayne Lewis	Jairus Shaw	Caitlin Welch
Thomas Eldredge	Monet Mayo	Ryan Shaw	Jessica Werner & Kristen Zettel

# The Chronicle

## Pilgrims to Rome...

***I had always dreamed*** of some day 'concelebrating' Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. My dream came true, twice, as my wife Karen and I accompanied Archbishop Dolan and 650 pilgrims to Rome in July.

There are not words sufficient to describe the beautiful churches we saw in Rome. The gilding of the ceilings, the statues, the stained glass, the unique history of each church would take pages to describe. Our first Mass with Archbishop Dolan was at the Church of the Gesu which is the headquarters of the Jesuits in Rome. The body of St. Ignatius Loyola is buried in a side chapel of this church.

July 29, 2003, was the Pallium Mass at 6:00 p.m. on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul at the outdoor altar in front of St. Peter's Basilica. I, along with the three other deacons and priests from Wisconsin, vested inside the Basilica prior to Mass. We were given starched and pleated surplices and red stoles to wear.

The Pope arrived in a black sedan driven up the steps to the outdoor altar. I was seated with all the other vested priests and deacons from throughout the world about thirty feet behind the Pope. It was truly inspiring to see Archbishop Dolan kneel before Pope John Paul II to receive the pallium from his own hands. This small band of cloth worn only by metropolitan archbishops symbolizes the fidelity and the continuity of the magisterial teaching of the church down through the ages. Along with the other priests and deacons, I was privileged to distribute the Eucharist during the Pallium

Mass.

I will never forget my pilgrimage to Rome and the Masses I participated in, especially the Pallium Mass with Pope John Paul II and the Mass I 'concelebrated' at the Altar of the Chair of St. Peter with Archbishop Dolan and my brother deacons. Being in Rome and inside of its beautiful churches made me realize the tremendous history and continuity of the Catholic faith. Sharing the Eucharist with people from all over the world also gave me an even deeper appreciation of the universal church, a truly "catholic" church that will endure until the end of the world.

***By Deacon Dean Collins***

***Jim and I were privileged*** to be part of the Pilgrimage of Prayer & Praise with Archbishop Timothy Dolan. My participation as a choir member in the 88 voice Archdiocesan Pilgrimage Choir was an honor, the memories of which I will treasure forever.

The choir enhanced the liturgy on 4 occasions, singing at the church of Santa Maria in Trastevere, the Pallium Mass in St. Peter's Square, the thanksgiving mass in Sant' Ignazia di Loyola a Campa Margia and at the Basilica Di S.Francesco in Assisi.

The highpoint for the choir was being invited on stage with the Pope, to sing quietly while he greeted new archbishops, their families and friends during the private audience. We were thrilled to be within 5 ft. of our Holy Father. Truly it was a trip of a Lifetime for both of us.

***By Jim & Donna Bieser***



*Archbishop Dolan and Deacon Dean Collins at the Per Ipsum in the Basilica of St. Ignatius in Rome. Photo by Sam Lucero, courtesy of the Catholic Herald*



*MGC Parishioners Jim & Donna Bieser pose with Archbishop Dolan in front of St. Francis Church, Assisi, Italy*

## Mission To Belize...

***My nine years at Mother of Good Counsel School*** instilled the true value of service in my life and since then I have made it a priority. I recently spent two weeks in Central America doing mission work, supported in part by MGC.

Belize was honestly not like I expected. There were highly populated areas and then nothing but vegetation for miles. Their houses were made out of scrap wood or cement, some houses being nicer than others. Every Belizean is proud of what they have and is so ready to share their lives with anyone who is willing to listen. Our main working location was St. Francis Xavier Parish located in Corozal Town, Belize.

For our mornings we were split up. I chose to go to Mary Hill School, which was a 15 minute drive from St. Francis. There we spent our time with the children teaching Bible school, singing songs, playing games, and doing arts and crafts. In the afternoons we cleaned St. Francis Xavier Church. Our jobs included sweeping, mopping, dusting, cleaning windows, weeding, and scraping gum off

from under the pews.

The highlight of my trip was when we went to a small village called Chan Chen to help build a church. We laid rocks for the concrete and made cement to pour a column, all done while we were in the pouring rain. I felt like I had accomplished something.

We lived with host families for two weeks, each house being within walking distance to the church. This allowed us to experience traditional food and learn so much about their culture.

Our final day there was filled with last minute discussions, last minute stops at the stores and good-byes. We ended the night on the beach with the youth group and a prayer service. Our last morning was really nice because we all attended mass. Everyone that we had met formed the congregation so that we were able to say good-bye.

I was able to learn so much through this experience. I walked away with a better idea of what mission really is and a greater appreciation for Belizean culture. I will always remember the warm hospitality and simplicity of the people I met in Belize. As I am off to college, I hope to only enhance my experience in Belize by continuing to serve others. **By Laura Urbaniak**



*Laura Urbaniak, '99 poses with other student missionaries in Belize. The group's service tour was arranged by the Archdiocesan Global Youth Mission Program*



*Student missionary Laura Urbaniak helps her religious education students put on a skit based on the Gospel*



*Laura poses with her students at Mary Hill School in Corozal Town, Belize*

# The Chronicle

## Join In Our Ministries, Programs & Liturgies This Fall

<i>Regularly Scheduled Meetings:</i>	<i>To confirm any event at MGC, you can check the calendar on our website: <a href="http://www.mgcparish.org">www.mgcparish.org</a>, look it up in the bulletin or call the office at (414) 442-7600.</i>
<i>Parish Council</i>	Third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Parish Living Room
<i>Finance Committee</i>	Third Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Parish Living Room
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Fourth Monday of the month starting at 8:30 AM in the Parish Library
<i>Athletic Board</i>	Final Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria
<i>Bible Study</i>	Every Tuesday at 9:00 AM in the Parish Living Room, September—June
<i>Ladies Volleyball</i>	Every Tuesday at 8:00 PM in the Gym, September—June
<i>Principal's Tea</i>	Third Wednesday of the month, time vary, call Mrs. Shaw at (414) 442-7600, ext. 119 to register.
<i>Adult Choir</i>	Every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the Church
<i>RCIA</i>	Every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the Parish Library
<i>Men's Basketball</i>	Every Sunday at 9:00 AM in the Gym
<i>Faithseekers Group</i>	Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 9:00 AM in the Parish Living Room, September—June
<i>Religious Education</i>	Every Sunday at 9:00 AM in the School, September—June
<i>Children's Liturgy of the Word</i>	Every 1st and 3rd Sunday at the 10:30 AM Mass, September—June
<i>Christian Women</i>	Every Third Sunday of the month. Mass at 8:30 AM followed by meal and program in Paulik Hall
<i>Donut Sunday</i>	Every 2nd and 4th Sunday after all of the masses, September—June
<i>Other Scheduled Meetings:</i>	<i>These are one time or non-regularly scheduled events. Please do confirm by checking the bulletin, web calendar (<a href="http://www.mgcparish.org">www.mgcparish.org</a>) or with the office.</i>
<i>Parish:</i>	<b>Ministry to the Homebound</b> —Sept. 8th at 9:00 AM in Parish Library; <b>Parish Picnic</b> —Sept. 28th at 10:30 AM under the tent; <b>Altar Server's Installation</b> —October 5th at 10:30 AM Mass; <b>Jr. Hi. Halloween Dance</b> —October 17th at 7:00 PM in Paulik Hall; <b>Thanksgiving Mass</b> —Nov. 27th at 7:00 PM in Church
<i>School:</i>	<b>First Day of School</b> —Sept. 2nd at 7:55 AM (Full Day); <b>Parent's Meeting: Athletics'</b> —Sept. 3rd at 7:00 PM in Cafeteria; <b>Ice Cream Social</b> —Sept. 5th at 5:00 PM; <b>Home &amp; School Assn. General Meeting</b> —Sept. 23rd, Oct. 23rd at 7:00 PM in Cafeteria; <b>Home &amp; School Assn. Halloween Dance</b> —Oct. 25th at 7:00 PM;
<i>Note:</i>	To become involved with the Scouts, Southside Meal Program, Saint Vincent De Paul Society and any other groups not listed above, please contact them directly. To find contact information check the bulletin, the parish directory or call the office

# Mother of Good Counsel Parish & School Picnic Sunday, September 28, 2003

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

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

We will have: Children (age 6-18) at \$2 each: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults at \$5 each: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kids 3 years & under (Free): \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 75 yrs & Older (Free): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In case of rain, we will move the mass and picnic inside the school. No 8:30 AM Mass that day.  
 Fr. Carey invites you to join us for mass at 10:30 AM with picnic following. MGC will provide meat,  
 buns, drinks, corn & potatoes. Please bring lawn chairs & a dish to pass:  
A-L, bring dessert; M-Z, bring salad or fruit.

Complete & return form with registration money by September 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

Setup Chairs/Tables \_\_\_\_\_ Cooks \_\_\_\_\_ Cleanup \_\_\_\_\_ Kid's Games \_\_\_\_\_  
 Food Line \_\_\_\_\_ Registration \_\_\_\_\_ Beverage Dispensers \_\_\_\_\_

## MGC to lose gift!

The last week of July our parish was notified that a deceased parishioner, we'll call her Jean, had died suddenly in March. Because Jean had no relatives we were not aware of her death until this notice arrived.

Jean left a handwritten Will naming Mother of Good Counsel as 90% beneficiary of her estate. Along with the official notice of her gift to Mother of Good Counsel a letter was attached from an attorney notifying us that the court would be filing an objection to Jean's last wishes. Unfortunately, her handwritten Last Will & Testament will probably not be allowed as Jean's Will was never witnessed or properly authenticated prior to her death as required by State statute.

While we are very sad that MGC will probably not receive her gift – as her generosity would have made a

huge difference for the church and school - we are equally saddened to know that her wishes will not be followed because of a technicality.

Every so often we receive a call from someone who wants to include MGC in their will but they don't have an attorney. We recommend that our parishioners and alumni contact one of the attorneys who advertise on the back of our bulletin or in our parish directory. This will help to make sure that "your" wishes will be carried out.



No matter whom you wish to leave your estate to, it is very important for all of us to have valid wills thus avoiding so many problems for the loved ones we leave behind.

We will add "Jean" to our prayers and hope that you continue to also pray for all of our faithfully departed members who have so generously remembered Mother of Good Counsel in their wills.

- **Christine Weidner, Administrator**

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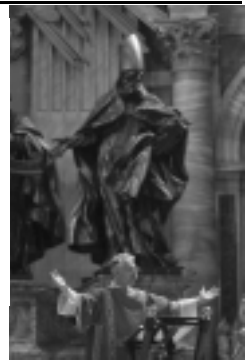
### Mother of Good Counsel Parish Mission Statement:

“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.”

***Our pilgrims’ trip to Rome is on page 4!***

***Right: Deacon Dean in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Altar of the Chair of St. Peter***



## MGC Shares Christ with those in need...

***The members of the MGC Human Concerns Committee*** will sponsor the Third Annual Grandparents’ Day Mum Sale on the weekend of Sept. 7 & 8. Large, colorful mum plants will be sold for \$10 each after the liturgies by the Human Concerns Committee to benefit Northwest Interfaith-Older Adult Programs.

Habitat for Humanity works to create decent affordable housing for the working poor. Because of parishioners’ requests, Human Concerns is interested in forming a “team” of workers who will volunteer to work on a house this September. If MGC does not have enough volunteers to form a “team”, we can join the group of Habitat volunteers that already exists at St. Margaret Mary. Involvement in Habitat for Humanity is a challenging invitation to all parishioners, especially our young adult parishioners over 16. If this sounds like something you’d be interested in please call Brian Worzalla at 444-8654 for more information.

MGC Human Concerns Committee will continue its collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Society during the **Back-To-School School Supplies Collection** and the **Advent Giving Tree Program**. During 2004, the Committee will again be sponsoring the **Hunger Banquet** and **Operation Rice Bowl** during Lent as well as the **Roses for Rosalie Manor** on Mother’s Day.

*The Chronicle* is published three 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, Regina Shaw, Principal. Photography: Pages 1-3, Van Hoven; Page 4, Catholic Herald & Bieser, Page 5, Urbaniak & Page 8, Sam Lucero, Catholic Herald. Thank you to all our contributors!