Evangelization is the mission of the church: not just of a few, but my, your, our mission.

- Pope Francis, May 22, 2013

St. Catherine is growing as a community of communities. Through the Kerygmatic Evangelical Retreat, parishioners are being formed into deeper relationships with Jesus Christ and becoming powerful witnesses. As a result, there are more active parishioners in the neighborhoods. Many then became involved with Bible Timeline and in Adult Vacation Bible School. They in turn have become evangelizers -- inviting others to hear the Good News proclaimed.

By the providence of God, a powerful instrument of evangelization, through art and music, came to our parish in the form of The Cross and The Light, which our own Bishop Estevez called “Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel.”

Our Youth carried the message of evangelization to the impoverished of St. Augustine with their Urban Plunge mission trip, putting their faith into action. And now we are embarking on our 46th Annual Fall Bazaar, where we evangelize with fun, fellowship and faith sharing. This vibrant dynamic parish continues to find ways to reach out to the community and bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those we encounter.

Answering the call

visit us online at www.stcatherineop.com
BY LISA MURPHY

In this electronic age of texting, Facebook, Skype and even online dating, when human interaction seems to consist mainly of hitting a “Like” button, St. Catherine’s Parish Neighborhood Communities (PNCs) are going against the mainstream. Neighbors are coming out from behind their screens and keyboards and sitting down face to face in each other’s homes. They gather together to pray with and for each other, for their community and for the parish.

Small groups are not new to St. Catherine, but groups based on geographical area was the goal of Fr. Ignatius: getting to know your parish neighbors whom you may have never met, simply because they attend a different Mass.

According to Pat Coots, the St. Stephen parish neighborhood, which is predominantly the Lakeside area along Moody and Drs. Lake Drive, is very blessed to have come together as a neighborhood.

“It is wonderful to see familiar faces at Mass and be able to say more than just a casual hello. We are meeting monthly in prayer, but also sharing friendships with others—the celebrations and trials of our lives. We have people who have volunteered to bring meals to our sick neighbors, give rides to those who need them, and bring Communion to those unable to attend Mass due to sickness.”

Pat and St. Stephen’s facilitator Trish Tate send out a personal invitation to new members who have just joined St. Catherine Church. All members are encouraged to “bring one more person to the next meeting.”

“We send cards to those who are experiencing a sickness or bereavement. We are bonding and becoming like extended family members to each other. And we are slowly growing. Each meeting sees a new face.”

The PNCs are named after an Apostle or a saint. At St. Catherine’s Feast Day celebration this year, all the PNCs were assigned the task of creating a banner to represent their group. For some neighborhoods, this assignment was the impetus for arranging the first meeting. Some neighbors met for the first time when they gathered in the Marian Garden for the procession of flags.

Glen and Lita Barton stepped forward when facilitators were needed for St. James the Greater, which is southern Fleming Island. They were pleasantly surprised when eleven people attended their first meeting.

One of the first groups to form, The St. John PNC, located in the Town of Orange Park city limits, recently had 25 people at a meeting, their largest gathering to date.

The St. Peter’s Community may be a small group but they enjoy gathering together once a month at the home of Vicki and David Counts, in the Bellair area.

“The St. John PNC, located in the Town of Orange Park city limits, recently had 25 people at a meeting, their largest gathering to date.

“Like all the other groups we read the gospel and then talk about it through questions” says Vicki.

“The St. Peter parish neighborhood meets at the home of Dave and Vicki Counts.

“With these questions we
Village, people!

“It Takes a Village” is an old saying that for most, is just that, an old saying. Coming together as a community is extremely difficult to do when many of us don’t even know our neighbors. Father Ignatius implemented the parish neighborhood communities to help create that “village” within our community here at St. Catherine of Siena. Some of our groups have come together rather quickly like the Saint Luke’s community. According to Carol Dungca they came together last October and they are the prayer warriors for the church. She says what she appreciates most is they are like a family, and coming together they have witnessed the boost in morale in their Christian community. Pat Coots from the St. Stephen community says their group is bonding as a neighborhood. They are meeting monthly in prayer, but also sharing friendships with others—the celebrations and trials of their lives.

Not all of our neighborhood communities have managed to come together as a group. The St. Bartholomew group is in the Oakleaf area, one of the newer, faster growing areas of the parish. As a population, we have younger, busy families. The task of bringing people together once a month has been challenging. Jessica Bond and I represent the St. Bartholomew community. We have promoted a couple of meetings in the bulletin and on the parish Facebook page, and have made well over 100 phone calls. We only had two people show up. It was very disappointing, but we are not giving up. We have scheduled another meeting for September 20.

Our lives are filled with the hustle and bustle of everyday tasks. But it is important that we reflect on the good and bad together. What better way to do that, than coming together and building that village with people of the same faith and same church family? Deacon Larry Hart said it best, “It is a way of living our faith. It is not a program or movement, rather it is a process, a journey, a lifestyle.” We are constantly making choices every day. I encourage you to make the choice to join your neighborhood community. Make the choice to try, just once and see….

PLEASE SEE PAGE 4 AND 5 FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING PARISH NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITIES

have found that we understand the gospels a little better. Jessie Palmer leads the readings and adds an explanation he shares from his reader’s workbook.

“Our members also share parts of their lives with us. We were all excited when we were able to witness the baptism of Mary and Jessie Palmer’s great-grandson Michael. The best part was this was something he choose himself as he is eight years old. Joe and Tessa Rosario have opportunities to have wonderful trips that they share with us when they return. Joe Caso is our parish council representative and informs us on what happens at the parish council. We all appreciate the information he brings and the group gives him feedback.”

Vicki asserts that although they are a small group, they have grown to depend on each other and have become a Christian family. “At our last meeting we discussed our schedule of meetings for the next few months. In October we will be sharing our time by volunteering at the St. Catherine Fall Bazaar. On December 18 after the 10:00 mass we are going to the Golden Corral and have lunch together then come back to the church and decorate our community Christmas tree.”

In a parish as large as St. Catherine it is easy to feel like just another face in the crowd. The parish neighborhood community is here, waiting for you.

By virtue of Baptism you are part of the Body of Christ. By virtue of your street address you are automatically a part of a parish neighborhood community, a branch of a family tree that makes up the parish of St. Catherine.

In a day and age when people live behind locked doors, neighbors don’t know each other and families can’t find time to eat together, the Parish Neighborhood Communities are indeed counter-cultural. But as Carol Dungca puts it, they have “at their center the living presence of Jesus as Lord, enlivened by the Holy Spirit. God Himself is a community of three person, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Therefore, the community is a necessity for everyone, for all of us.”
There are five geographical districts subdivided into 16 Parish Neighborhood Communities at St. Catherine. Listed below are the parish neighborhood communities, their general geographical area, current meeting schedules and contact information. If you are interested in becoming more involved with your parish neighbors and are unsure who to contact, please call Vincent in the parish office.

1. St. Andrew: Orange Park Country Club and Loch Rane. One of the first formed groups, St. Andrew meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Facilitators are Patty and Scott Woods. Contact 904-298-1815.

2. St. Bartholomew: Oakleaf Plantation and neighborhoods off Brannan Field and Old Jennings west of Blanding. This group is in early stages of development and has chosen the second Tuesday of the month for meetings. Their first meeting will be on Sept. 20th. Contact Heather Vaca-Guzman, facilitator, at 804-325-9601 for location.

3. St. James the Greater: Fleming Island East of Hwy. 17 and south of 220, and Green Cove Springs. This group held their first meetings in July and August and have had a great response. They meet on the Third Tuesday of the month. Contact Lita and Glen Barton for more information. 904-529-7895.

4. St. James the Younger: Doctor’s Inlet area. This group is in the infancy stage. Facilitator Jim Hardin is planning to hold the first meeting on Sept. 13 in the Formation Center. If you would like to help with the formation of this group please give Jim a call at 904-327-6576.

5. St. John: Orange Park from Holly Point down Doctors Lake Drive, including neighborhoods on the south side of Kingsley. One of the first groups to form, the St. John neighborhood meets on the fourth Monday of the month and had over 20 people at their July meeting. Contact Rubi Olis at 904-278-0735 for location information.

6. St. Joseph: Foxridge, Ridgecrest, Stonebridge, Ridgewood, Bear Run. Facilitator Jesse Reburiano could use some help generating interest in building this community. If you are interested in helping get this group off the ground please call him at 904-635-2624.
7. **St. Luke**: Pace Island. This is a well established group who meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Call Nimfa Harris at 904-707-3439 for more information.

8. **St. Mark**: Cedar Bend, Meadowbrook and Bellair West. This active group meets the first Wednesday of the month. Call Carol Rowell at 904-505-5981 for meeting location.

9. **St. Mary**: Grove Park and neighborhoods east to the St. John River. One of the first groups formed, they meet faithfully on the third Monday of the month. Contact Carmen Cuevas at 904-505-7920 for more information.


11. **St. Peter**: Meadowbrook east of Blanding and Bellair. A small but dedicated group, they meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Call facilitator Vicki Counts at 904-264-0146 for more information.

12. **St. Paul**: Fleming Island, Creighton, Harbor Island and Eagle Harbor. This group meets on the first Thursday of the month. Contact Adriana Cascante at cascanted@bellsouth.net.

13. **St. Phillip**: Middleburg south of 220 and west of Blanding, Lake Asbury, Coppergate, Country Pines, Habitat, Sherwood Lake, Hunters Trace, Rideout Hideaway. This group meets on the third Friday of the month in conjunction with the St. Thomas neighborhood. Call facilitator Angela Powell for more information and location of meetings. angelapowellmd@yahoo.net

14. **St. Simon**: Jacksonville (except 32244 south of 103rd St.) One of our new groups to form, they meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. Contact facilitator William Malone at 904-571-6309 for more information.

15. **St. Stephen**: Lakeside Estates and neighborhoods west of Doctors Lake, south of the Orange Park line, east of Blanding, and north of Doctors Inlet. This is a strong group which has been averaging 20 people at each meeting. They are meeting on the third Thursday of the month. Email facilitator Trish Tate at momtate@bellsouth.net

16. **St. Thomas**: Argyle Forest and 32244 south of 103rd Street. This group meets along with the St. Phillip group on the third Friday of month. Contact facilitator Lawsikia Hodges at 904-303-6145 for meeting information.

Call Vincent at 264-0577 for more information regarding Parish Neighborhood Communities

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**Parade of Flags from Parish Feast Day**
BY VINCENT REILLY

In April 2015, Fr. Ignatius, Deacon Larry, and a group of 18 parishioners attended the Kerygma Evangelization Retreat in Smyrna, Georgia, with the interest of finding an experience that encouraged individuals to form a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. The experience of those initial participants at the retreat that week was overwhelming. Even though the retreat was in Spanish, each participant became inspired through the power of the Holy Spirit and the strength of the witnesses to bring this retreat to St. Catherine. Even those who attended the retreat as skeptical came back fired up that this experience needs to be shared with everyone.

In the last year, St. Catherine has hosted the Kerygma Evangelization Retreat twice and 117 have attended so far. One participant recently commented, “This retreat has really caused me to turn a corner in my life and follow Jesus.” Another participant stated, “I thought I had done everything, attended Catholic school, been to other retreats in the past, participated in the Renew program for years, but this retreat caused me to open my eyes and realize how I was just going through the motions; now, I have a personal relationship with my Lord.” Several people have asked, “How come I have never heard the Catholic message proclaimed in such a powerful way before?”

Kerygma, which comes from the Greek word for proclamation, is the core message of the Christian faith and the heart of the Gospel. Pope Francis has said, “Nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful, and wisdom-filled than the Kerygma. All Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into it.” The Kerygma Evangelization Retreat is a way for people to receive this proclamation in a prayerful and Christ-centered way. An overwhelming majority who have attended the retreat have remained active in their Parish Neighborhood Community and their Evangelized Community, a group of 12 people who attended the retreat at the same time. Many of those who attended the retreat have become involved in The Bible Timeline or the Adult Vacation Bible School. Those who have attended the retreat have become evangelizers throughout our parish ministries and neighborhoods inviting others to hear the Good News proclaimed. The Kerygma Evangelization Retreat is different from other retreats. The retreat calls people to establish an everyday relationship with Christ according to their own spirituality. There is not a call to renew the parish through ministry and the retreat
does not propose one specific method for spiritual growth, rather it calls the participants to experience a personal relationship with Christ and sustain that in their parish, no matter which one they attend. It invites participants to be able to evangelize in simple ways and to live their lives for Jesus wherever they happen to be. The retreat is designed so that all family members can participate at the same time and is straightforward in how the Gospel is proclaimed in an adult friendly manner. The retreat is appropriate for everyone, no matter how actively they are practicing their faith or their age.

We encourage all to take advantage of this awesome spiritual opportunity coming to our parish on Sept. 13-18. For more information, pick up a Kerygma Evangelization Retreat brochure.
When it comes to Church functions, I have always been a bystander. So when Fr. Ignatius began his campaign to turn us all into Participating Catholics, I would have made my excuses—except for something my husband said: “If it’s important to Fr. Iggy, I want to support it.”

I pondered that statement and its implications carefully. After all, why would Fr. Iggy try so hard to educate and inspire us and move us into closer community when he knew he’d be up against the kind of resistance acquired through decades of experience avoiding Church functions? I concluded that there must be something in Father’s petitions intended to work for the betterment of my soul.

I therefore adopted my husband’s slogan as the watchword for making future decisions: if Father Ignatius is promoting it, then we are attending it. The way I see it, if Father makes an appeal, he does so on behalf of the Holy Spirit.

I confess my life has changed for the better since I embraced this attitude, and one of the first fruits came through my attendance of the Bible Timeline Course that Vincent Reilly facilitated. This was no ordinary Bible study, as fellow classmate Sally Welch notes: “(Other) Bible stud(ies) did seem too hard and too boring and much too intimidating. Then I attended the Bible Timeline with its emphasis on ‘the story,’” and I discovered an exciting storybook to read and enjoy.”

For me, a mere twenty-three classes taught me more about salvation history than I had ever learned before. The first half of each weekly session started with communal prayer and small group discussions. The second half was devoted to the heart of the program: a video lecture by Jeff Cavins, one of the foremost Christian scholars of our time.

Jeff Cavins is a former Protestant pastor who, after his conversion, developed a passion for educating Catholics about the depth, power, and beauty of our faith. He introduced us to surprising interpretations for many of those all-familiar pages of the Bible. He draws on his vast understanding of the cultural, linguistic, and historical perspectives that were present in Biblical times, along with his insightful ability to cross-reference Old and New Testament writings, to reach some astonishing conclusions.

Nelly Sales comments, “The connections between the Old and New Testament are amazing. Studying the Bible in chronological order really helps it come alive.” Learning how the Old Testament prefigures the New and then how the New Testament fulfills the Old is important for understanding that God had a plan for salvation from the beginning of time. It anchors us securely in Jesus, whose mission was foretold throughout.

Luke 24:27, 32 reads, “Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”” Phil Fuss expresses a similar sentiment regarding the impact of Jeff Cavins’ teachings: “I was much like the eunuch in Acts 8:28-31. He was reading from Isaiah, but didn’t understand what he was reading because there was no one to explain the meaning. What Philip did for the eunuch, Bible Timeline did for me.”

Kevin Schad summarizes the experience nicely: “Participating in St. Catherine’s presentation of The Bible Timeline exposed me to a much richer understanding of the Bible and how it assists us in..."
understanding God’s plan and how we fit into it. The program exposes the proper way to study the Bible, rather than attempting to read it out of chronological order from front to back.

In addition, the study draws attention to how God’s promise has been conceived through time and how all the pieces of the puzzle fit into place. This is a great educational course that is well interpreted and easily equips a pupil with knowledge to open doors for effective evangelization in our communities. If you ever find yourself asking “Why?” or “How?” when pondering the workings of God present in the Bible, then you should take this course.”

If you have not yet attended this course, I urge you to make it a high priority. There is simply no substitute for obtaining this insightful view of what Scripture is telling us. Through it, my faith has been strengthened, my ability to rebut false claims has improved, and my desire to delve more deeply into the hidden meanings behind God’s Word has increased.

Dr. Gene and Nimfa Harris agree.

“Nimfa and I greatly benefited from the Bible Timeline series at St. Catherines” wrote Dr. Harris. “It gave a greater insight into how to read the bible and how the readings should be interpreted. It is a program that all parishioners should find the time to enroll in when it is offered, to learn more about our faith through the holy bible”

Clearly we as Catholics can all agree on the need to study God’s Word. “Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit” (Hebrews 4:12). But having a guide like Jeff Cavins to walk you through the terrain can make all the difference in understanding the deepest meanings. You will see God’s love in a new light, and it’s a sight that will bring you joy.

The Bible Timeline will be offered again this fall, beginning Nov. 8, in both morning and evening sessions. Two additional courses, “Gospel of Matthew” and “Epic Church History”, will be offered as well, for those who have already attended Bible Timeline. Watch the bulletin for details.
Hello to my family at St. Catherine of Siena! As the creator, producer, and “steward” of The Cross and the Light (TCTL), I was struck by Bishop Felipe Estevez’ testimony after witnessing the power of the performance on opening night. As many of you recall, he sat in the first pew. When asked if Pope Francis would like it, the Bishop laughed aloud and exclaimed, “This is Pope Francis’ Joy of the Gospel for sure!”

After hearing this, I had to look up Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, and read it myself. Wow – I highly recommend you read it too. Pope Francis states, “Each particular Church should encourage the use of the arts in evangelization, building on the treasures of the past but also drawing upon the wide variety of contemporary expressions so as to transmit the faith in a new ‘language of parables’” (167).

TCTL accomplishes this mandate in two very powerful ways. First, it immerses people in the story of Jesus’ love and sacrifice, and allows them to encounter His mercy and forgiveness in a very profound and intimate way. Utilizing “contemporary expressions” of beauty, theater, music, and environmental projection, we bring the Gospel to life making it relevant in the 21st Century and appealing to people of all ages!

Second, TCTL is an epic production, and it takes hundreds of volunteers to make it a success! St. Catherine of Siena “knocked it out of the park” by bringing hundreds of volunteers together to proclaim the Gospel in this powerful way. As you witnessed during our performance week, over 150 people in yellow shirts volunteered their time, talents, and treasure from the parking lot to the sacristy!

We witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit and the Body of Christ in action like never before. You could literally feel the movement of the Holy Spirit in the parking lot of St. Catherine’s before the production began, throughout every song, and all the way up to the moment Kenny, the man who played the role of “Jesus,” spoke before the last song and invited the audience to “ask Jesus to be Lord of your life!” The tears and the testimony blew us away and re-energized our efforts to take The Cross and the Light to the world! I’ll never forget our week together.

After the last show we recorded the testimony of our cast and what this experience meant to them, and it was incredible. You see, we thought we came to Florida to evangelize to YOU, and we left with an intense awareness that YOU were the ones evangelizing to us! Ha! Our cast might have been singing the songs, but your heart carried the message! YOU became the hands and feet of Christ and changed our lives for all eternity.

Words cannot express my gratitude! Here are just a few comments I thought you’d like to read from the cast.

“My experience in Orange Park was one of the best experiences in my performance life! To experience their level of reverence for God and general life was eye opening for me as a believer. I do believe I was experiencing the love and presence of God in a powerful, cleansing way. The Orange Park experience was different in that we were able to spend time in their community: an opportunity to connect with them. That really meant a lot to us as performers and to their community. We were blessed on both ends!!” – Kenny Watson, who played the role of “Jesus”

“I’m never sure where to begin when I talk about the experience I had in Orange Park because I am not sure the experience can be summed up to its full extent. TCTL has been a huge part of my life and career for the past three seasons, and I have been so blessed to have encountered thousands of people who have seen the show and who have shared their overwhelming reactions, conversions, and love with us. However, my time in Orange Park stands out as the highlight of these three beautiful years. I have been a Catholic since birth and a performer not long after that. I have always felt lucky to get to perform this particular
show because I get to use both my love of God and my passion for theatre together which is not often the case. And while I always feel moved performing TCTL, I did not expect to be changed the way I have been. I realize now that it is because I had never felt so much immense love in one place until our stop there. The people of St. Catherine’s were not just another group of people who were touched by this show. During our short time in their community, I created relationships with these wonderful people that goes beyond our weekend in Florida. I did not expect to leave Florida having truly believed that I have seen what the face of God must look like in the faces and lives of these people. There is something very special at St. Catherine’s that I hope everyone gets to experience in their lifetime. There was not one single person of the 145+ volunteers, who I now consider friends, who demonstrated anything less than God’s love to both our cast and crew and to each other. I truly felt Gods presence in St.Catherine’s church and feel as though I finally witnessed firsthand God acting out among a whole community. St. Catherine showed me and the cast/crew what it is truly like to live as God lived.” --Ashley Rozanski, who played the role of “Mary Magdalene”

“I am convinced that the Spirit of God moved during every presentation. That may sound a bit bold, but here are the reasons:
1. The team and the congregation prayed and invited the Spirit.
2. The congregation was so helpful, inviting and loving. They were willing to be Jesus’ hands in their little portion of this fallen world.
3. Individuals testified after the presentation that they were moved to recommit / change their lives. In my opinion, real life change doesn’t happen because a song or a performance is good or even exceptional. Change is brought about by the Spirit of God. Praise God that He used and uses TCTL in such an eternal way.
4. Worship. I am sure that some folks came to enjoy a performance, and perhaps for some that was the entire experience. However, I saw and heard members of the ‘audience’ worship. Yes, they were praising God. I saw holy hands raised in adoration, tears of joy and tears of conviction.” --aL Jacquez, who played the role of “Judas and Caiphas”

“I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to experience The Cross and the Light in Orange Park. From the first moments of walking in as strangers, to leaving as feeling like a part of an extended family, the presence of the Holy Spirit was highly apparent. I didn’t think that such a special bond would be created with everyone involved down to the smallest of details. There are not enough words to express how magical it felt to me. I could immediately sense I was in a ‘special’ place. When people gathered for the performances, that pure love enveloped the church and trickled over into our performance as a cast. There was definitely a different sense of awe and wonder captured in the telling of our Savior. This is what God’s love should feel like everywhere. St. Catherine’s has given me a gift that I want to share with everyone I cross paths with.” --Beth Lackey, who played the role of the “Blessed Mother”
St. Catherine youth conduct “Mission Trip” at home

Reprinted by Permission from JULY 12, 2016 DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE
DIOCESAN NEWS
by Angelina DeVincenzo

For the youth at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Orange Park, St. Augustine is considered mission territory.

Thirty-one years ago, St. Catherine’s began a close-to-home mission trip thanks to the inspiration of Msgr. Vincent Haut, a former pastor of the parish. Urban Plunge, as it came to be called, now takes place in one week increments, twice every summer. High school students make Cathedral Parish School their home base and then split up into groups to take on different projects throughout the impoverished areas of St. Augustine.

According to St. Catherine’s youth minister, Robin Shipley, the Plunge mission trip serves a diverse group, namely the elderly and impoverished. She adds, “I don’t think people know that St. Augustine is one of the most impoverished areas.”

This summer, St. Catherine’s will bring about 70 teens to St. Augustine for Plunge.

“We complete about 80 projects by the time we are done,” shares Shipley.

A “project” can include anything from carpentry to painting - mostly on individual’s homes. “We have actually encountered homes without running water,” Shipley points out. “Our work is very extensive.”

Clients, as the homeowners are referred to, can apply for this mission work with organizations like the housing authority. The teens get to know some of these clients very well and they even go back around Christmas time to sing carols and bring gifts.

“We try to teach the kids that this is a way of life,” says Shipley.

For Halie Bourre, a senior at Fleming Island High School, Plunge is as life-changing for her as it is to the clients. This summer she celebrated her birthday while participating in Plunge for the third year, and based on her radiant expression, she would have it no other way.

Halie describes an encounter she had on her birthday with a woman whose home they were working on. With tears in her lit up eyes she shares, “As soon as I finished talking with her, I was so filled with the Holy Spirit. It was the best birthday present I’ve ever had – I encountered Jesus.”

Halie is not alone in her love of Plunge. First-time plungers, Dylan Fletcher and sophomore at Oakleaf High School, Dylan Fletcher stands on a ladder painting a home a shade of toasted coconut with a soft candlelight trim. Yes, he knows the name of each paint color. And yes, he is extremely excited about it. According to Dylan, “Plunge shouldn’t be a week; it should be a whole month.”
Plunge is a game changer for many students. Eddie Denfeld, now in his fourth year of Plunge, shares that his first trip to Plunge was merely for his friends that were going. At the time he claims, he was just going through the motions in his faith, but now, he’s not. “I am now an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion because of Plunge.”

Katherine Eatough, a junior at Bishop Snyder High School relates, saying, “At first I just came because my friends asked me to but now I want to enrich my spiritual journey.”

And, according to Brittany Harrison, a recent Middleburg High School graduate, Plunge has moved her faith from words to action.

Not only is the work itself enriching, but for the youth, the entire week is full of sharing, praying together, attending Mass, and immersing themselves in scripture through the practice of Lectio Divina.

They work from 9:30 in the morning until 4:30 in the afternoon. Even their lunch break takes place at a local soup kitchen where they gratefully eat whatever is being served that day.

Viewing one’s hometown as a destination for a mission trip is a rarity at best, but St. Catherine’s ability to see St. Augustine as mission territory is an undisputed blessing for all involved.

Putting compassion into action is exactly what Pope Francis had in mind when he called for a Jubilee Year of Mercy!

*Photos by Woody Huband*
Fun, fellowship and faith-sharing

How well do we evangelize our Faith in our daily lives? Occasionally, I think we find it a bit difficult or even awkward at times. But we all know it is of the utmost importance to help bring souls to God. Our Holy Father Pope Francis says “Evangelization is the mission of the church; not just of a few, but my, your, our mission.”

All of our area’s sister churches in Christ have their own ways of interacting with the citizens in this community, but none can hold a candle to the fellowship that radiates from our St. Catherine’s Bazaar. What a beautiful way to evangelize! People come from all over to our parish for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and whether they know it or not… Faith sharing. Our faith and compassion for others shines brightly for all to see on Bazaar weekend.

The success of such undertaking is, in part, gauged by its participation. That is where you are needed most. We need to ask ourselves “what is it that I can do?” Is it volunteering to be a game booth chairperson? Is helping to collect sponsorships? Is it donating? Is it marketing or creating awareness?

I’ve got one suggestion many of you can do easily. If I could kindly ask everyone with a smart phone and access to the internet (especially Facebook) to “Like” the St. Catherine’s Fall Bazaar Facebook page, then share it and encourage your friends to do the same.

Thank you! We all just played a small, but significant role in marketing our Bazaar!!

Also on our Facebook page you will see a Blue Sign-up button. Pressing this button will take you to the Bazaar website at Bazaar5.wixsite.com. Here, you can select the “How You Can Help” option, scroll down and you will see every food booth, game booth, and all other events. We would love for you to sign-up electronically or you may also volunteer via paper sign-up in the narthex after Mass or in the parish office.

Now a couple needs, changes and reminders:
The Attic Treasures trailer is available for drop off. Please no monitors, car seats, cribs, mattresses.

Bookworm has a new location. New patio section of the Formation is now home for Bookworm Bazaar T-shirts will be available in Sept. The youth will be designing the logo. So youth, let’s get creative! -YOUTH! We need you! Please sign up!

-Raffle tickets will be mailed again, like in years past. Expect their arrival shortly

Person to Person and Paper Sign-ups will be available after mass in the Narthex, we still need operations and games core team members.

No matter what your skill or experience, our Parish Bazaar needs you! Please take a moment to listen for what God may be calling you to do…THEN DO IT!

Thank you.
by Deacon Larry Hart

I am a volunteer on-call chaplain for the new St. Vincent Clay Hospital. I was on-call this past weekend and I got a call that a Catholic lady named Anna was dying and her family was requesting the anointing of the sick, sometimes called 'last rites'.

I explained to the dispatcher that I was a Deacon and that a Priest is needed to perform the anointing. He said he had been trying to reach a Priest and none of them had returned his calls. He thought they were all saying their evening Mass. I affirmed that Fr. Ignatius was in fact saying the 5 pm Saturday Mass at that very moment.

He suggested that maybe I could just go and be with the family and say some prayers with them. I agreed but said, "First let me try to call our new Priest, Fr. Tony Basso." I called and he answered. I explained the situation to him and I offered to come get him and take him to the hospital as he had never been there before. He readily agreed.

He was waiting for me when I arrived at the Rectory. Within 30 minutes of getting the call, we were walking into the hospital. We went to Anna’s room and there were two family members with her. Anna was elderly and had an oxygen mask on. Fr. prayed the prayers of the anointing and anointed her and blessed her. Right then, one of Anna’s other daughters arrived and as we talked we found out that Anna doesn’t speak any English, only Italian. Lo and behold, Fr. Tony speaks Italian. Anna’s two daughters assured Fr. Tony that she could hear him.

He was already done with the anointing (in English), so he bent down next to her ear and introduced himself, told her that he had performed the sacrament of anointing, blessed her, and then told her what feast day it was. She opened her eyes and tried to turn her head toward him. She had heard and understood.

The family members who were there were so grateful and pleased. The whole string of events, ended with God’s grace and a blessing for Anna. Only God could have arranged for the only Italian speaking Priest in the County to be available for Anna and her family. It was a God moment.

Fr. Tony Basso

Blessing of Animals
in the Year of Mercy

Saturday, October 1, 11 a.m.
On the lawn in front of Rooney Hall

Animals from Clay County Animal Care and Control will be available for adoption from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. We will be collecting food and supplies for local animal rescue agencies and shelters.
St. Catherine Upcoming Events

- **Saturday Sept. 10-- 6:30 p.m.; Ministry Appreciation Luau**
  Dinner provided by St. Catherine

- **Saturday October 1: Blessing of the Animals in the Year of Mercy**
  On the Lawn in Front of Rooney Hall, 11:00;
  Animal Adoptions from 9 to 12 noon;
  Collections of food and supplies for local shelters

- **Saturday October 1: Jim Hughes becomes St. Catherine’s Director of Music!**

- **October 16: World Mission Rosary**
  Led by Children of St. Catherine during Noon Mass;
  International Luncheon from around the world, presented by our Parish Neighborhood Communities

- **October 21-23: 46th Annual Fall Bazaar: Sign Up Now!**

- **November 12: Year of Mercy Initiative Dinner for the Homeless of Orange Park**
  Presented by our Parish Neighborhood Communities