

# SS. Edward & Lucy News

SS. Edward and Lucy Parish is a Catholic community in Eastern Geauga County

JUNE 2013

## WOMEN'S CLUB UPDATE

by Maria Cocco

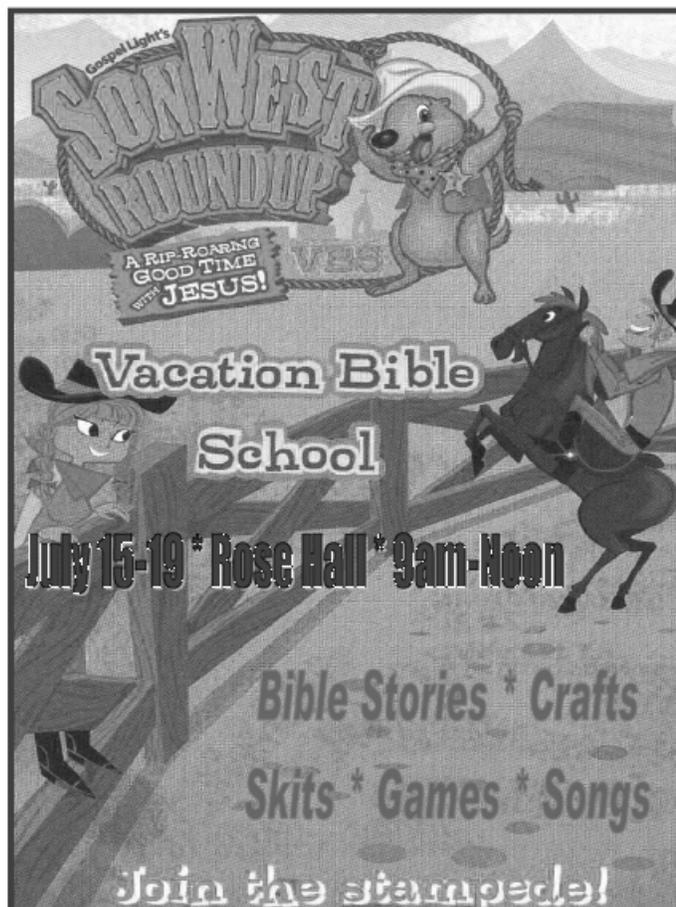
The members of the Women's Club spent time recently creating a mission statement that would reflect who we are. Our end product was: SS. Edward & Lucy Women's Club's mission is to promote the religious and social traditions of the Church. We pledge to be there for one another spiritually, socially, and emotionally. We will reach out to meet the needs of our Church and its parishioners.

The past few months this mission statement was reflected in our accomplishments. We experienced a very prayerful evening with our living rosary on May 7th. We had a nice group of parishioners that shared in the experience. On May 19 we had our Mother Daughter Banquet at Rose Hall. We had over 100 women/children join in this celebration of Christian Women and who we are. There were some families present that represented four generations of women reflecting God's work through us. What a wonderful tribute to the dedicated Christian Women that touch our lives. We were also blessed to have Father Winca join us as we celebrated his 96 Birthday at our event.

We have more exciting events planned over the next few months such as our annual trip to the Servant's of Mary Shrine in Windsor in September to again honor Mary in the praying of the Rosary. There will be another opportunity to participate in the Living Rosary which we repeat again in October. We hope to have a ½ day reflection on a Saturday in the fall. And one of our signature events, Supper with Santa, will be in early December. Keep your eyes on the bulletin for further information. Everyone is welcome to participate in our events whether or not you are a member of the Women's Club.

We also would like to thank many of you who support us through purchases at our Bake Sales and Bracelet Sales. Thanks to these events we were able to purchase wall mounted rinsing faucets for the kitchens at both St. Lucy and St. Edward. We continue to supply the kitchen with needed supplies as possible. We also purchased a new statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Lucy which is used for our May Crowning as well as other events.

If you would like to help plan some of our events or get involved with a great group of Christian women, stop by one of our meetings. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at St. Lucy Winca Hall at 7:00 PM. A reminder is in the bulletin the Sunday before or you can call Maria Cocco 440-286-7505.



## OTHER GODS: IDOL WORSHIP BEYOND GOLDEN CALVES

by Fr. Burkley

I enjoy reading when I can make time for it. You never know the nourishment we can get from a short magazine article or a good book. This is true in everyday life and even truer when it comes to our spiritual life as Catholics. How can we learn unless we take time to read? There was an article in AMERICA magazine last week by Richard Patterson, a clinical psychologist who has written much on psychology and spirituality. He had just finished reading through the whole Bible again and makes a few observations about the Word of God in the Bible and our own daily lives. He observes much of God's upset in the Old Testament was because his people were turning to idols and building their lives and

their hopes on idols. He observes that we are not a whole lot different from them. An idol is anyone or anything to which we turn in times of trouble or for simple comfort. He remarks that those of us who have walked the path of addiction worshiped an idol. For some it is the god of alcohol or drugs; some have worshiped sex or food. He says not all idol worshipers are addicts. Some of us worship power or money; others bow down before prestige. Some of us simply love our "stuff". Anything that becomes the center of our life - Facebook, Twitter, video games, being thin - can serve as an idol. Buddhists use another word for idols: attachments. It is our attachments, our idols that give rise to suffering. We notice in the Gospels that Satan tried to tempt Christ to worship idols of power and wealth. Mr. Patterson cautions us not to be drawn to the altars of prestige and possessions. We all need to examine ourselves and remember that this caused the Lord's real concern because it really deprives us of a real life.

## REFLECTIONS ON PARISH LIFE

by Fr. Burkley

I have been at our parish for almost twelve years now and have experienced so many things that build up a Catholic Christian community and a few things that can bring it down. We have all worked to increase our engagement and commitment to the Body of Christ present in our parish. We have worked together well to make our religious education program more effective. As a parish community we have reached out to bring more people into a regular participation in the life of this community, whether it be at Mass, in Generations Of Faith, and parish ministry and social efforts. You know well that none of this matters to anyone unless we experience it.

In last week's PLAIN DEALER Terry Pluto, who doubles as Sports Editor and Religion Editor, had some advice to give to graduates this year. It is good advice for us as well. He begins: 40 years ago I graduated from Benedictine High School. Here are a few things I wish someone had told me (at commencement):

1. You're not as smart as you think...or as special...or as talented.
2. Hard work and passion often mean more than pure intelligence.
3. There's a reason they call it work.
4. Avoid the poisonous, negative people you will encounter.
5. Avoid the gossip that is everywhere in the workplace. It can wreck your attitude toward others for no good reason.
6. If you look to be offended in life, you will be.
7. Don't take everything so personally.
8. Life is often tough. You go through it either with God or without him. His way or no way.

## ARE YOU FULFILLING YOUR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE?

by Linda Talboo

When we fill out the stewardship pledge cards volunteering our time, talents, and treasures to our parish for one year, it is presumed by the stewardship leaders that the volunteer is sincere and count on their help.

None of our stewardships are extensively time-demanding. If you volunteered to help a stewardship this year, I urge you to please fulfill your commitment. You will find rewards beyond measure, and help our parish community do God's work.

## ARE WE A LUKEWARM CHURCH?

by Sue Norieka

When most people think of the book of Revelation they think of end time prophecies, but the text starts out with messages to the seven churches in Asia. Each letter mentions something good about each church community, a rebuke (except for two), and a message for what needs to be done... or else.

The church in Laodicea may have

been similar to us - you need to decide. Things were going well, people were living comfortably and just like the Jews in the Old Testament when the going got good, they slacked off on their walk with God. Read Rev. 3: 15-17. "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. I wish you were one or the other! So because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold, I am about to spit you out of My mouth. (NKJ translation uses "vomit" instead of "spit" - yuck! ... but graphic!) You say, 'I am rich: I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing' - but you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked ..." Wow - God's not pulling any punches. Just what I want to be - part of what God spits out.

How can we tell if we are lukewarm? Let's start with Mass. Do you come to Mass so that you can check it off some imaginary list that you have fulfilled your Sunday obligation for the week or do you come to Mass to worship and praise the Lord and in doing so receive the blessings of being refreshed and comforted? Do you participate as much as possible by paying close attention to the readings and prayers, singing from the heart (God hears your singing as a thing of beauty so don't worry about being off key or what others may think - belt it out), really listening to the homily (we are so blessed to have Fr. Burkley who explains the Scriptures so well) perhaps even taking notes, appreciating the Eucharist to the fullest extent. And equally important, when you leave the Church do you go out "to love and serve the Lord" or do you flick a little switch at the door and turn off? Have we not all received the Great Commission "go therefore, and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Matt. 28:19-20. This doesn't mean we all have to traipse around to foreign countries - only those who are called to do so, but we do have to reflect the light of Christ in the way we live our lives so that our actions, words, and attitude bear witness to Him.

In *The Genesis Enigma* by Andrew Parker he quotes T.E. Lawrence, A.K.A the real Lawrence of Arabia, as commenting on the Bedouins "Their conviction of the truth of

their (Islamic) faith, and its share in every act and thought and principle of their daily life is so intimate and intense as to be unconscious, unless aroused by opposition. Their religion is as much a part of nature to them as is sleep or food." Mr. Parker continues with his own observation "Whereas for Christians of western Europe then (and today) religion is a separate, and separable sphere of life, for the Muslim Bedouin, and for the Jews of Old Testament times, it was an integral part of their existence." Why is that? We have the Good News of salvation which should be reflected in all we do and say. Are we so indoctrinated with separation of church and state and political correctness that we have let our vision become clouded? I heard a quote to live by on the radio "If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything." This is what I believe God was trying to get across to the church in Laodicea and to the churches of Middlefield and Parkman. Stand strong in your faith so that when you are confronted with the confusion of the world you will not be deceived or lulled into complacency. That is part of this whole lukewarm problem. By not taking a strong stand on faith, we can become deceived by that which surrounds us.

Are you shy and awkward about your faith? Check out II Tim. 1:6-7 "Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you... for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control." Verse 8 continues "Do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord..." Afraid you won't know what to say when you try to respond to a nudge from the Holy Spirit? Don't be "for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." Luke 12:12. Jesus warns us in Luke 12:40 "...for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect." None of us want to be caught without enough oil of faith (lukewarm) as in the parable of the foolish virgins in Matt. 25:1-13. We do not want to be locked out of the wedding feast with Christ or spat out like vomit. Finish reading the letter to the church in Laodicea in Rev. 3:18-21 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire so you may be rich (note: this would not be real gold, but treasures from God) and white clothes to wear (a symbol

for purity and health), so you can cover your shameful nakedness (probably sinfulness... remember Adam and Eve); and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be in earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.' " That last option sounds a whole lot better than spit!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

*A young man learns what's most important in life from the guy next door.*

It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. College, girls, career, and life itself got in the way. In fact, Jack moved clear across the country in pursuit of his dreams. There, in the rush of his busy life, Jack had little time to think about the past and often no time to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future, and nothing could stop him.

Over the phone, his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days. "Jack, did you hear me?"

"Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you.. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said.

"Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him.

"I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said.

"You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said.

"He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said.

"I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture....Jack stopped suddenly.

"What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked.

"The box is gone," he said.

"What box?" Mom asked.

"There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said. It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it.

"Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read.

Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read.. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside. "Upon my death, please for-

ward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch.

Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for your time! -Harold Belser."

"The thing he valued most was my time".

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked.

"I need some time to spend with my son," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!"

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away. Think about this. You may not realize it, but it's 100% true.

1. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.
2. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
3. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
4. You mean the world to someone.
5. If not for you, someone may not be living.
6. You are special and unique.
7. When you think you have no chance of getting what you want, you probably won't get it, but if you trust God to do what's best, and wait on His time, sooner or later, you will get it or something better.
8. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good can still come from it.
9. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world.
10. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.

11. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.
12. Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know and you'll both be happy.
13. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great.

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***Father, bless all my family and friends in whatever it is that you know they may need this day! And may their life be full of your peace, prosperity and power as he/she seeks to have a closer relationship with you. Amen.***

We gratefully acknowledge the J.S. Paluch Printing Company, who prints our parish bulletin and the parishioners who invested their time and talents to produce the newsletter.

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