
SS. Edward & Lucy News

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

SEPTEMBER 2012

PRO-LIFE YOUTH CONGRESS

by Jo Ann Arambasic

What is it? The Pro-Life Youth Congress is a network of high impact youth dedicated to building the Culture of Life. The youth who are involved are energetic and are trained to be leaders in their community. They are typically 7th-12th graders.

The Pro-Life Youth Congress (PLYC) is patterned after the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C. There are national, state, regional, and local officers and committees. They are given experiences which involve training by pro-life adult leaders to effectively educate, advocate and motivate their peers for the cause of life. They are designed to work with the adult pro-life organizations in their communities. Our HELP (SS. Helen, Edward, Lucy, Pro-Life) group is fortunate to have the youth from St. Helen involved with PLYC. In February of 2012, the PLYC from the Akron-Canton area travelled all the way from Akron-Canton to Newbury to meet with our teens. Our teens have participated in the October life demonstrations before various sites, 40 Days of Life, carrying signs in Painesville before Family Planning Association of Northeast Ohio, and some even going to the abortuary in Shaker Heights to pray, sing, and peacefully demonstrate against what takes place inside the building.

Each year there are four Pro-Life Youth Conferences to teach the following:

JUSTICE - March For Life, Washington, D.C. It is Justice that teaches us to respect the rights of others and exercise authority in the maintenance of right and just relationships. In this case, the March For Life instills the rights of the unborn and the groups demonstrate for the most innocent amongst us using their voices to defend the voiceless.

TEMPERANCE - Usually held in union with the local RTL Chapters' Spring Educational and Appreciation Dinners. This past year our PLYC group was invited to join the other groups in Akron for their dinner where they listened to and saw Star Parker, the head of CURE, Center for Urban Renewal and Education in Washington, D.C. She is a powerful pro-life voice and received a standing ovation for her speech.

FORTITUDE - Summer Pro-Life Leadership Retreats.

This year it was held at Camp Luz in Orville, OH on July 7 and 8. It was entitled Mission Possible. The musical group, "The Strange Familiar" performed and engaged the youth by being with them and interacting with them during the day. The participants got to see and listen to Claire Culwell, a young, beautiful woman who survived an abortion. By attending these types of conferences, our youth are practicing the virtue of fortitude by learning how to come to the defense of a good and moral cause. Four students from Newbury went to the conference and two were selected to national positions for next year. They are Jordan Cicchella and Dan McElroy. Both young men are to serve in the capacity of national ambassadors. They are looking forward to serving in this area for the next session of congress.

PRUDENCE - Held in September/October with back to school meetings in local chapters and counties. With the awareness of this virtue, our teens learn to apply moral principles to particular cases without error and overcome doubts about the good to achieve and the evil to avoid.

Students involved in PLYC are busy and engaged in fostering good decisions. Peter Lyons is one such teen who became very engaged after attending the

"Bring America Back to Life" Symposium in Cleveland. Peter checked out the PLYC web site and hit on a link to American Life League. He hit on the Pro-Life t-shirt week and entered two contests. One was a photo scavenger hunt. He was challenged to take over 180 specific photos in six days! He did it and came in first place. The second contest was to write, produce, and edit a pro-life video. He won first place for that endeavor and won a Kindle Fire.

It would be wonderful if some of our youth from SS. Edward and Lucy would join with St. Helen to become part of an organization who defends the sanctity of life. We are a cluster parish and there are adults from both SS. Edward and Lucy who work alongside St. Helen parishioners for the common good, which is to foster the churches teaching on the sacredness of life. For more information, please contact Jacque Cicchella at 1-440-564-5762.

SS. EDWARD AND LUCY ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

by Mike Hanish

The SS. Edward and Lucy Annual Parish Picnic was held June 23 at Mariapoch in Burton, Ohio.

Once again we were blessed with good weather. Many hands helped to make this a fun filled day.

The picnic started off with my favorite part; mass at the outdoor chapel. This is such a fun way to experience the celebration of the Eucharist. We continued with a feast of picnic dishes that included family favorites and a table filled with delicious desserts, all brought in by our families to pass, and

supported this year by our kitchen helpers lead by Judi and Greg. Luke, along with help from Chris, once again made the best hamburgers and hot dogs on his special charcoal grills. After everyone filled their bellies we enjoyed entertainment by the Geauga Square Dance team. Some of our braver parishioners even learned a few fun moves on the dance floor. Jerry and Melissa worked to sell raffle and 50/50 tickets throughout the evening, helping to raise money to cover the costs. Our children played all the traditional picnic games from getting egged and spinning a hula hoop to racing in grain sacs, all for fun prizes.

Thank you to those adults who bought prizes and spent their picnic time directing these events. Snickers, BoBo and Spinners the clowns painted faces and tied OH so many balloons for our children and those of us young at heart. Paul, our candy man, loaded every one up with all their favorite candies. I always hoped to one day have a hot air Balloon at our picnic but for one reason or the other it never seem to work out. The ice-cream truck arrived to deliver this treat to all that heard the music and (Hello). As I went to get my ice cream low and behold a local hot air balloon made its appearance to all of us - its beautiful green color set off by the evening sky. (Thank you Lord) Last, as the night drew closer the bon-fire was lit and those who wanted to enjoyed that last sweet treat, roasted marshmallows.

Next year is waiting for your ideas. Please contact Deanna Valdman or the church office to volunteer a moment of your time. Thank You for all the support.

FROM THE PITS OF THE CHICKEN BARBECUE:

by Mike Hanish

Dear Lord; when there are 500 half chickens that need to be roasted does it have to be the hottest day of the year? Hats off to the men in the trenches that make the Chicken: Paul, Mike V, Bret and Dave. These men slaved over temperatures reaching 300 degrees at times. I volunteered for cleanup this

year (still not sure that was a good idea. YUCK).

What does it take to be a master CB chef for our Car Show / Chicken BBQ? Endurance! These men start days before preparing the pit for fire. Only select hardwoods can be used. Experience tells them how much wood they will need stacked. E-mails start ringing as to what needs to be brought. Mike brings the barn fan, tent and Special BBQ Sauce. Paul brings all the heat proof gloves, tarp, and cooking tools. Bret and Dave bring plenty for everyone to drink. Grills/Racks are cleaned and made ready to go.

The morning starts at 6 am for these men, well before the first meal is served. Fire must be at the correct temperature by 9:00 am. Chicken is fresh and brought out in coolers. These chickens must be kept clean and free of any chance for contamination. Tables are set up under the tent and water hoses to help with this. Mike loads the raw chicken onto the racks. Five sets of racks (grills) that make about 75 half chickens at a time are loaded and sprayed lightly with flavor sauce. It takes a rack on top of the chickens and a rack on the bottom. These racks sit across concrete blocks that form the PIT. Between the blocks is the fire that needs to be consistently stoked. Water hoses keep the fire from getting too hot, which would cause the chicken to burn. Paul keeps the meat thermometer inserted at the thickest part of a breast. While Dave constantly sprays a special barbecue sauce keeping the chicken moist at all times. The racks are flipped at just the right time to roast both sides evenly. It takes about an hour for the first 75 chickens to come off the grill. From there they are loaded into sealed boxes where they are sprayed one more time. The chicken will continue to cook in these boxes. Then they are transported into the kitchen for the meals. The racks are cleaned and they continue with the next 75 until all 500 chickens are cooked. Roasting takes



until about 4 pm. Cleanup and tear down begins at 3 pm and wraps up about 5:30 pm, when it's finally time for these guys to eat. Hope you enjoyed your meal as much as they did making it for you. See you next year at the HEAT OF PITS!

STEPHEN MINISTRY

by Jean Gehring

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."
Peter 3:15

Hope is such a tenuous word. We hope for good weather. We hope that all we know will be safe and happy; we hope we all get to heaven; and we hope that each day will bring us happiness and good health. There are times however, that hope as we may, God has another plan for us. Sometimes we aren't able to understand that plan or understand what has been presented to us. We can reach out and ask for help to see us through those trying times. We can try to understand what it is that God plans for us. Looking to hope for better times can be a struggle but we also can grow from it as it helps us to grow as individuals. Hope is like wishes and prayers, the answers may be right in front of us, the answers may not be what we expect, but we have to look to see the wonder that God has given us.

It was simply amazing to watch all of the Olympic athletes strive for their goals to meet their hopes and dreams. Some achieved beyond their hopes and dreams, others were blessed to be able to participate in their fields. Much can be said of many of us. We have hopes and dreams, but we always try to reach beyond. Sometimes, we need to recognize that we are blessed by the people who have touched our lives while they help us reach our hopes and dreams. We may have to assess many times what those hopes are to determine if God has other plans for us but remember we are blessed because he is with us.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON OUR EVIL WORLD

by Sue Noreika

Last April Mike Hollowell wrote a wonderful article on evils in our world regarding abortion. Let us look at that topic and other subtle topics that can undermine us without our being aware.

Did you realize that our young people are being taught that the early products of conception are just tissue? In fact, that under a microscope this tissue develops up to a point to look like a frog, chicken, dog, etc.? All right, scientifically when egg and sperm meet they form a cell. One cell divides to two, two to four, four to 16 and so forth. All creatures that take food in one end and excrete through the other end will line up in a tube-like fashion in early development and look the same. So God is efficient - the plan works. But all creatures are not the same. Before conception the egg and sperm are programmed with DNA that can only produce what they are programmed to produce. A human can not produce a frog, a chicken, or a dog. The product of human conception can only be a human - not a piece of indiscriminate tissue (makes me angry!) We think of China as being horrible with their one child per family edict and how they control it - but what about us?

Moving on, we are also being heavily influenced by the media. Think about it. If you want to go to see a popular movie, you are going to compromise. You know it will probably have language you do not want or should not hear; there may be a sex scene which probably adds nothing to the story line but is put into the movie for spice, and violence many be excessive. We see the same things on tv shows. It would seem as those who are not believers have an agenda to wear us down to their level.

Also on tv, all these reality shows are not reality. If you look at them, they are totally scripted. There is always someone you love to hate; there is always drama; they are not reality. And have you noticed that alternative life styles are presented as we are constantly being bombarded with what is "politically correct". Please remember that "politically correct" is of the world -

we need to follow what is "spiritually" correct!

Beware also of quasi science and history shows. They tend to present things as fact and use a lot of repetition to give you the impression things are fact whereas they are presenting theories - not facts. The History Channel had a show about Old Testament battles purely from a military standpoint - with no religious point of view. Kind of disappointing. And we know the Catholic Church is always being attacked.

Right now I am sitting in the hospital looking at "Toddlers and Tiaras" and I feel dumber for watching it. It teaches little ones their natural beauty is not enough - they must put on fake hair, fake eye lashes and fake teeth to be attractive and act in ways totally inappropriate for their ages. Mothers have their children spray tanned and apply airbrush make-up, both of which are aerosol and can cause damage if inhaled, including cancer from certain spray tans. We see the same thing in "America's Next Top Model." We are also influenced by beauty ads and weight loss products. The companies are concerned about their profits - not actual benefits to consumers. By the way, before you use a weight loss or body building product, go on-line and look up the side effects of each ingredient. You might be surprised.

There is so much more out there trying to wear us down. Magazines, newspaper articles, tv news and commentaries. How are we to cope? Ephesians 6:9-18 Put on the Gospel armor. Please read this. We need to daily arm ourselves with the power of God.

HAVE YOU HAD A ST. ANTHONY INTERVENTION?

by Sue Noreika

So often we hear miracles do not happen any more or at least not as much as in the early church. Maybe we just are not looking for them because they do exist! There are no coincidences. God is alive and working. We can start by looking small and look at St. Anthony's help. We went to our condo in St. Augustine this

past June because I love to walk on the beach (condo available for rent - we'll give you a discount - oops - unpaid for ad!). Mike has a Russian-made watch that is very dear to him as he has spent time studying in Russia. The last time we remembered seeing it was at the hotel we stopped in on the way down. You know how it is when you get to your destination and start unpacking! For three days we could not find the watch. We went over his bedside stand, my stand, the chest of drawers with a fine tooth comb. Ready to give up, we petitioned St. Anthony for help. That night my husband read a little and put his book on his empty bedside stand. In the morning the Russian watch was on top of the book! Thank you St. Anthony!

We invite you to submit similar events you have experienced or heard about to Linda Talboo for publication in this newsletter at fastnfar@windstream.net.

Do not worry if you do not feel you can write. Submit what you can and we can do a rewrite for you or give you a call and interview you then send you a copy for your approval prior to publication. If you prefer, the article can be published anonymously. Let us share the miracles in our lives!

GRAB A BIBLE VERSE AND HOLD ON

by Sue Noreika

We all have things that concern us - no matter what our age. Things that bother us - things that are issues. And God's desire is that we take all things to him in prayer. Remember, no problem we have is too small for God. He is in control. Proverbs 3:5 reminds us not to rely on our own counsel - which I personally have found one of the hardest things to do because I like to be in control. But what has helped me most and I pray will help all of you most from children to very mature adults, is to read the Bible and find verses that really speak to you. I've gone through some painful tests and unbidden the words will come to me "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be

afraid.” John 14:27. “I will never forsake you”. Wow - what comfort - I sort of went into a trance and did not feel the procedure. Okay, so I’m talking some big time stuff - but I still remember being in grade school, middle school and high school. I remember those uncertainties and doubts. We all have things that are issues that are significant to us. Do not worry how they may compare to problems others may have. Search scripture for something that speaks to you. Write the verse on a note card or put it in your computer. If you are like me, you’ll have to search all over to find it again (If you know a few words you can Google it). The psalms are great for finding words of comfort. Psalm 23 is very comforting. The rod spoken of is to guide and the staff is to protect. Can’t sleep? Psalm 4.8 “I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone make me dwell in safety.” You can even claim a Psalm as yours - substitute your name, will it and pray it. So grab a Bible verse or two or three or more and hang on and may the Lord grant you His peace which surpasses all understanding.

SOUND FAMILIAR?

by Sue Noreika

In Matthew 22:34-40 one of the Pharisees, an expert in Jewish law, per usual is trying to trip Jesus up by asking which of the 614 Jewish laws is most important. And Our Lord replied “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself.” Who can argue with that answer? Especially when you look at Deuteronomy 6:5 - Moses had just reviewed the 10 Commandments - the preceding books of Exodus, Leviticus were filled with laws (numbers is more like a census with battles) and then in Deuteronomy there is this summary of the laws. “Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” The verses following this are well worth reading, also. Perhaps as we look at the over 700 statements in our catechism we should consider consolidating them to the two commandments Jesus spoke of in the Book of Matthew.

We really need to examine how we apply these words to our lives. If we truly love our Lord, we will serve him for that is our true purpose in life - to love and serve the Lord. Ephesians 2:10 states “For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” But also read the precaution promise in the verse above. “For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - and this is not from yourself, it is a gift from God, not by works - so no one can boast.”

Think of ways you can quietly praise and serve the Lord daily and spread this light. Remember St. Francis is credited with saying “Preach Christ - use words only if necessary. St. Theresa the Little Flower, stressed her “little way.” It is often the small acts of kindness we share that plant the seeds for encouragement and growth. Sure we will mess up and not do what we are supposed to all the time. We are human. I certainly do my share of messing up. Truly try to act like Christ. It will not only help others but will be greatly rewarding to you.

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