



the St. Anthony Parish VOICE

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St. Anthony Scrip program pays off

By Mary Jo Ayers

Scrip is a non-selling fundraising program that benefits both families and our parish. It has been in existence at St. Anthony's for many years.

Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards instead of cash, check or credit cards. Families purchase gift cards at face value, and our Scrip Program orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price.

The difference is an instant rebate for our Scrip Program: 75 percent of the rebate goes back to families in the form of tuition credit; and 25 percent goes to the Scrip Program. The Scrip Program in turn donates its earnings to our parish.

Families have the choice of using the credit to go toward their own child's tuition or that of a relative or friend. Families can also recruit others to support them by using Scrip.

In 2015, families earned a total of \$23,430 of Holy Family tuition credit and \$1,690 of Religious Education tuition credit.

Families can also bank the tuition credit for future use by their very young children, grandchildren or future babies. In 2015 the Scrip Program banked a total of \$1,656 for this purpose.

Recently the Scrip Program donated \$25,000 to the Parish, which was used to support the summer renovation of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This renovation included remodeling of the preschool area; remodeling of restrooms on two floors of the building; new flooring, paint, security doors, and 8 replacement windows. The total cost of the project was \$50,000. Holy



MAKING SCRIP PAY

Mary Jo Ayers, Alice Pettit, Helen Gourley, Carla Henkels, Kendra Sullivan, and Sharon Killian help fulfill Scrip orders.

Just by using Scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily raise a significant amount toward tuition while also helping out the parish.

Family contributed \$25,000 and our Scrip program covered the other half.

Just by using Scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily raise a significant amount toward tuition while also helping out the parish. For example, we've had families earn as much as \$1,400 in tuition credit over the course of a year in addition to \$467 going to our parish.

When you use Scrip gift cards at your favorite retailers, you're

fundraising while you shop. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas station, restaurants, hotels, home improvement and more.

Are you ready to put your shopping dollars to work? All you need to do is contact Mary Jo Ayers at mjayers@mchsi.com, or Kendra Sullivan briansullivan@mchsi.com, for questions and sign up information.

St. Anthony's singing out

By Nicole Soer

Nicole Soer is the music coordinator at St. Anthony Parish and offers the following thoughts on our parish's music in praise and worship.

"St. Anthony's is blessed with an incredible singing parish as well as talented musicians who volunteer their time and talent.

A quote from the USCCB's guidelines, Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship, sums up our liturgical role beautifully:

"Choir members, like all liturgical ministers, should exercise their ministry with evident faith and should participate in the entire liturgical celebration, recognizing that they are servants of the Liturgy and members of the gathered assembly."

How can we as musicians do this?

- Continue to encourage our congregation's participation by mindfully inviting everyone to sing, thoughtfully choosing music that most of the congregation knows, and intentionally teaching new music to expand our parish's repertoire
- Recruit and welcome strong musicians dedicated to fostering excellence in musical liturgy
- Develop and grow as musicians by practicing regularly, joining community groups (such as the Dubuque Chorale or the Archdiocesan Choir), taking lessons, listening to excellent renditions of our common liturgical songs, recording our own masses and listening with a critical ear, etc.

As musicians, we have focused on blending voices within our small groups, intentionally introducing new music (including the Mass of Renewal), and welcoming new musicians.

We have also brought back and reinvigorated the adult choir. During practice, we focus on a musical skill each week such as phrasing, musical expression, dynamics, breathing and choose songs that help us practice these skills.

One tool that has been incredibly helpful is YouTube because most of the songs we sing have recordings posted there! This has helped us in both practicing and learning music.

Our choir numbers are usually around 11 or 12 members with 18 different people having been a part of the choir. We come from a variety of musical backgrounds and have a nice range of ages as well as a good balance of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Palm Sunday was especially striking to me as we sang "Were You There" because I was enveloped in beautiful sound from both the congregation and the choir.

We would love to have you join us in the choir! If you are not sure about committing to practicing and singing every other week, perhaps you would be interested in our summer choir. We will sing just three or four times in the summer and will practice about 50 minutes prior to mass. This will be a great way to get your feet wet without a huge time commitment!

If you are interested, drop me an email (nicole.soer@gmail.com) or check the bulletin near the end of May.

I feel blessed to have been part of this ministry for more than 20 years here and would like to share a little about myself.

I have been in the liturgy and music coordinator role since November. My husband Tony and I have been married for 23 years and have three children. Our sons are a junior and freshman at Loras College and our daughter is a junior at Dubuque Senior High School.

I began accompanying for mass during high school, continued at the Newman Center at Illinois State, played at St. Michael's in Galena after college and have played at St. Anthony's since then.

In high school and college I played the French Horn and marched in the Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps. In my 9 to 5 job, I am an

Application Specialist in the Business Analytics department at Honkamp Krueger.

I leave you with an excerpt from The Musicians' Prayer:

"May your presence and beauty be found in every note, and may the words that are sung reach the hearts of your people so they will draw closer to You. May Your Spirit guide us through every measure so that we might be the instruments of Your peace, and proclaim Your glory with glad voices. Amen"

Lenten focus: Corporal Works of Mercy



By Lori Apel, principal

The pictures above are from the St. Anthony school lobby bulletin board outlining our Lenten Corporal Works of Mercy project.

In addition, the vases filled with rocks are from our Bury the Dead prayer service which was held on Tuesday morning.

St. Anthony, Nativity to collaborate on religious education

By Stephanie Klapatauskas

In the 2016-2017 school year, St. Anthony Parish and Nativity Parish will collaborate to provide one Religious Education program to both parishes. Sessions will still be held at St. Anthony's with the exception of occasional evenings, such as Ash Wednesday liturgy or the Communal Reconciliation service, being held at Nativity.

There will be St. Anthony's and Nativity catechists and aides and St. Anthony's Coordinator of Religious Education, Stephanie Klapatauskas and St. Anthony's Youth Formation Coordinator, Dave McDermott will oversee the Religious Education program.

This is an effort to better use both parishes' resources as there has been a decline in the number of students in Nativity's Religious Education program over the years.

We believe this collaboration will be beneficial to both parishes.

The Sacramental preparation for students in second grade and those students preparing for Confirmation will also be combined with students still typically receiving the Sacraments in their own parishes.

It must be noted this decision was not made with any thought toward combining the parishes in any other manner beyond what is deemed as the best use of our resources.

We are simply trying to be good stewards of the resources we have at both parishes, and we are very excited to be working with Nativity toward our shared goal of providing a high quality Religious Education program and formational experience for the children and youth of both St. Anthony's and Nativity.



Youth Retreat a big success

By Dave McDermott

Forty-seven high school students took a weekend break in mid-January to grow in faith on the beautiful grounds of Camp Little Cloud.

St. Anthony's annual high school retreat is a 30 year tradition that allows students to come together to share stories, laugh, pray and grow closer to God.

The weekend includes several talks on topics that are relevant to student's lives, a reconciliation service, Mass and plenty of games and fun traditions.

As it always has, the retreat's format allows students to carve space in their lives to rest and be away from the distractions and stresses of typical teenage life.

This continues to be a strong aspect of youth formation at St. Anthony's and will hopefully grow even more in the coming years.

Summer Religious Education possibility... your thoughts

By Stephanie Klapatauskas

St. Anthony Parish is considering the possibility of offering summer religious education in addition to the school year religious education program that is currently offered.

This type of program would run for two weeks in the summer, Monday through Thursday, for about four hours each day and it would include art and music.

Students and their families would also attend school year offerings such as opening and closing services, Ash Wednesday liturgy, Communal Reconciliation, Generations of Faith, etc.

We are currently just in the exploration phase and this would be offered no sooner than the summer of 2017.

In order to move forward with this phase we are looking for certified or retired teachers who would be interested in teaching summer religious education.

It would be offered for those students entering grades 1 through 6, and we would be looking for art and music teachers as well.

If you or someone you know might be interested in teaching and/or would like more information, please contact Stephanie Klapatauskas, Coordinator of Religious Education, at 582-0377.



Totus Tuus fun returning

By Stephanie Klapatauskas

Last year, St. Anthony's hosted the first city-wide Totus Tuus in Dubuque. It was a great success!

Totus Tuus, Latin for "totally yours," was the motto of St. John Paul II and signifies our desire to give ourselves totally to Jesus through his mother, Mary.

The week was led by a dynamic team of four college students and was open to children and youth of all Dubuque parishes for grades 1-12. The camp incorporated prayer, personal witness, liturgy, Sacraments, Eucharistic adoration, praise and worship, catechesis and FUN!

Students entering grades 1-6 met for the day program while students entering grades 7-12 met for the evening program.

The college students leading the week inspired and helped kindle or ignite the fire for Christ in the hearts of the participants.

One parent had this to say about her child's experience with Totus Tuus: "My son had a great time yesterday and learned a lot. He doesn't usually tell me about his day, but he was excited to tell me all about what he had been doing and what he had learned.

It's so nice to see him excited about topics that are academic and religious. He was so worried about coming to his "school" thinking it would be "school" but was happily surprised."

The evening program ended with a social at Eagle Point Park filled with games, relays and food while the day program ended with Friday Fun Day, which included a visit from the Dubuque Fire Department as they helped the students enjoy water fun and ended with dilly bars donated by Rainbo Oil and Kwik Stop. Great fun was had by all!

Totus Tuus is returning this year and will once again be open to all parishes and hosted here at St. Anthony's. The week will be June 12-16 for those entering grades 7-12 and June 13-17 for those entering grades 1-6.

The theme for this year is Prayer and the "Our Father" and will be complemented by a focus on the Glorious Mysteries.

If you'd like more information, are interested in registering a child, or are interested in helping out please visit our website <http://www.stanthony-dubuque.org/Totus-Tuus> or call the program coordinator, Stephanie Klapatauskas at 582-0377. Many volunteer opportunities are available!

How you can extend mercy

By Fr. Steve Rosanke



Pope Francis has designated a year of Mercy for the Church. It started on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, 2015, and will end in

November 2016 on the Solemnity of Christ the King.

We are asked to celebrate the Year of Mercy by showing to others the mercy that God extends to all of us.

The Archdiocese and the parish are involved in various projects and activities, but here are a few ways we can personally get involved in the celebration of mercy.

1. By being aware of the reality of mercy, we begin to see how God gives himself to us and asks nothing in return. Because we are touched by God's mercy, we can show mercy to others.
2. No one can see what's going on in someone's life. There may be things going on that we're not aware of. Refraining from judgment is itself an act of mercy because it allows us to accept the good in every person. Being patient with the shortcomings of others is also an act of mercy.
3. Jesus asks us to forgive in the way we have received forgiveness from God. When we forgive, we are released from the resentment that can affect our lives and relationships. Forgiveness is an act of mercy toward ourselves and others.
4. In the Archdiocese of Dubuque, there is a "holy door" entrance at St. Raphael Cathedral. (If you're looking toward the sanctuary in the Cathedral, the "holy door" is toward the right, near the baptismal font.) The purpose of the holy door pilgrimage is symbolic of the desire we have to live more fully in conformity to the pastoral charity of Jesus.

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Last four issues available on St. Anthony website: www.stanthony-dubuque.org