

SAINT BARBARA CHURCH

CROSS TALK

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Youth Group Attends March for Life

by Courtney and Meredith Mueller

We will be the first to admit, our youth group is pretty awesome. They help at Vacation Bible School, feed the homeless, and visit our neighbors at Woodcrest every month. And once a year, they head to Washington D.C. to fight for one of our most fundamental rights as Catholics – to protect the unborn.

This being our seventh March for Life, we are “veterans” to the trip, and it holds a very special place in our hearts. John has always told us, “There’s a moment when we’re on the March when everyone stops joking around and gets very quiet, and you know that they get it.” As kids, we did not really understand what he meant by this, but as adults, it becomes obvious.

Our trip always starts out the same, with a crazy-long bus ride and a group of very rambunctious kids who are ready to have a good time. We do some site seeing, get as good a night’s rest you can get with fifty kids, and then get up the next day and do what we went to D.C. to do.

Of course, there is a lot of messing around and joking and fun throughout the day, but it never ceases to amaze that between the time we get in line at the National Archives to join the March (all of us sporting our St. Barbara’s Youth Group hoodies and beautiful scarves that were craftily made by Candy Puckett and Mary Lorenz), and the time we make it to the Supreme Court building, there is a definite change in the tone of the trip. Instead of talking about how excited they are to be missing school, kids are instead talking about important issues that affect every one of us every single day.

By the time our trip to D.C. came to a close, it was easy to see how our actions had influenced every member of the youth group who made the pilgrimage with us. When we saw them again on Wednesday, they were still discussing what they could do to get more involved and make a difference. We have been so blessed to be able to take this spiritual journey with our youth group, and we look forward to continuing to work with them to help those who are most in need of our protection.



Bringing All Catholics Together

We are in a very exciting time in the life of the Church. Bishop Foys has assigned 7 priests, including myself, to come up with a movement that is going to revolutionize the history of the Church in our time. The "United Catholic Movement" is a group whose mission is simply: "Bringing All Catholics together." Our goal is a 25% increase in Mass attendance by November of 2017. We will do this by simply inviting Catholics who no longer go to church to come and share Mass with us. We all have family members, co-workers, and neighbors who are Catholic but no longer practice, or even go elsewhere. We have already begun to form teams who will begin the process. But eventually every member of our parish will be a part of this exciting movement. You will hear more about The United Catholic Movement in weeks to come. Until then please pray for those that we will be inviting back. God Bless You.

Fr. John

Emergency

Response Letter of Thanks

Fr. Sterling, Fr. Knight and St. Barbara parishioners,

My husband and I are two of the many affected by the August flooding in Louisiana. The flood broke all previous records by more than 4 feet, and inundated places that had never gone under before. Our home was one of those places. It is elevated on 8' high concrete pillars (because we live near a bayou.) In spite of that, we had 33" of water inside.

Christy Portwood (our niece) told us her church was raising funds to assist in recovery for those who had gotten damage in the event, and that she had submitted our names. Later, she called to say that she was sorry that she had added us to the list too late. I thanked her for trying, and told her that she didn't need to worry about us, that we're okay.

So we were surprised – to put it mildly – when in December, a large envelope arrived from St. Barbara's stuffed with gift cards!

We are very grateful for your financial help, but more than that, appreciate your reminding us that people are inherently good. My husband and I have never before been personally affected by such an overwhelming tragedy, and had no idea how much a donation, a helping hand, or a smile could lighten a heart and lift a spirit. We now know firsthand.

We have shared some of our gift card bounty with a few of our neighbors – one a 90-year old widow (still in her own home!) The other a retired couple with very limited income who are caring for her 93-year old mother. My husband and I discussed it, and felt you wouldn't mind if we spread our kindness around.

As we use each card I think of you all. I hope that someday I will be able to meet you and attach faces and names to the kind people of St. Barbara Church.

We can't thank you enough for thinking of us, and for including us in your prayers.

Charles and Pamela Cailouet

HOLY NAME FISH FRYS!

by Tina Bowen

The Fish Fry committee has been getting their shrimps in a row and planning yet another fabulous Lenten Fish Fry season. The Fish Fry events were quite successful last year with the new Sterling Event Center giving us plenty of space to feed lots of folks. And last year's unfortunate fire didn't deter us. True to St. Barbara spirit we bounced right back the following week. We hope to ONLY repeat the fun, good food and spirit-filled fellowship we have had in the past.

So, this year we are expanding to include a drivethru! This is exciting news, and one that we hope will add to our already successful event. Be sure to pay attention to the lanes and signs provided that will help you navigate the drive-thru if you can't join us for dinner inside. Carry-out orders will still be taken inside too. This year they have a new side item, a baked potato. We will of course have the same yummy food and sides from years past. Salvadores will be providing our pizza again this year if you don't have a hankering for fish. And the best news of all, the prices will remain the same! And how could anyone forget the best dessert table in NKY that our lovely Holy Dames run! There are many people involved helping to run the frys each week, so please come out and show your support and eat, eat, eat!

Valentine Dance Fun!



WHY THEY DO WHAT THEY DO CRHP INSPIRATIONS

by Pauline Baumann

In early March, a group of 12 men from our parish, including our pastor Fr. John, once again traveled to Jamaica to be part of the Jacob's Ladder project that brings help and hope to the 80 mentally and physically handicapped men who live in this group home environment. These men would be part of the "throw away" society of their country if it were not for the goodness of Fr. Greg and many volunteers. Each volunteer must provide for his own travel expenses and give a week of his time.

So "why do they do what they do"? Fr. Gamm, a visiting priest, recently explained that we do the good that we do for one of three reasons. First it may be the deed provides "pleasure"... a week in Jamaica in early March isn't too bad. Or it may be for "practicality"... many of these men bring truly useful skills to the building projects they complete. But it generally boils down to "love" that motivates us to do what really matters.

Dan Vogt, a newcomer to the group, prayed about his part in this group without considering the large financial cost. He realized this was a strong group going, and his passion for building would be a real help. He considers himself a "behind the scenes" guy whose actions will preach much louder than words.

Ken Guenther, a skilled electrician, is also new to the project. He knows that he has skills that others might lack. He commented that we do so much for ourselves, and that it is time to do something real for others and experience what they go through.

Jeff Jehn, a repeat volunteer, knows that this project takes all of them out of their comfort zone, but this will be the ultimate almsgiving for Lent. The face-to-face daily interactions that they will make will speak volumes to the residents about their value.

Fr. John, also a repeat attendee, commented, "Building the houses for the orphans in Jamaica is better than any vacation or retreat I do throughout the year. The orphans are true angels, full of joy. They make you look at the world and your life differently. Being with a group of men from our parish and doing this spiritual work is truly humbling."

These men will certainly "make a difference in our world" by their presence and their actions.

My CRHP weekend is nearly a month behind me and I'm still feeling the power of the weekend every day. The time spent with the women of St. Barbara's church was an amazing journey. We started out not knowing each other and by the end of the weekend we were like family, sisters really.

The vulnerability of the stories shared was humbling to me personally. Each story shared had the same common thread, a strong sense of faith and the power of prayer, coupled together is what guided these beautiful women through some of the toughest times in their lives. I'm forever grateful and blessed to have had the opportunity to attend this amazing weekend.

Kate Plapp

"The Holy Spirit inspired an amazing group of women on the CRHP "giving team." I was so grateful to receive the blessings from these women. They truly have a spirituality that shines in their lives. Their hearts gave me love, compassion, and understanding. And too, the Holy Spirit healed me through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I left this retreat with new friends and renewed energy to grow spiritually more in my life and that of others I meet."

Jean Sens

We moved to northern KY about four years ago and attended Mass at St. Barbara's parish because of a convenient Mass time. From that day on our kids wanted to return to St. Barbara's for Mass. We finally joined the parish this last year, and I knew I needed to attend CRHP to meet some women of the parish. I participated in CRHP 16 years ago at our parish in Indiana, and it had such a tremendous impact on my life.

The CRHP weekend at St. Barbara's was an amazing experience with so many faith filled women in attendance, both on the giving and receiving teams. The Holy Spirit was definitely in attendance as well. The stories shared, the prayer time and the meals made up an extraordinary weekend. I'm so excited to continue on and become a member of the giving team and I'm looking forward to growing in friendship and faith with my new CRHP sisters. What a blessing these women are to this thriving parish!

Barb Becraft

Congratulations to the 2017 Cofirmandi





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St. Henry Grade School News St. Henry High School News

by Julie Nelson

A huge CONGRATULATIONS goes out to 8th grader, VICTORIA SAMOTIS! Many of the Future Problem Solvers at Saint Henry entered this year into the KAAC Scenario Writing competition for the first time ever at the school. Victoria is one of the Top 5 Scenario Writing winners in the state of Kentucky! She will find out in Louisville on March 13th if she will advance to Internationals in Wisconsin in June. Victoria was the only Catholic school student to place in any of the divisions. We are extremely proud of her and all the kids that entered this prestigious writing competition... Camryn Chesnut, Ashlyn Schlake, Griffin Gould, Noah Francis, and Nathan Francis. A big thanks to Mrs. Lisa O'Brien for helping evaluate the high school division of this competition which allowed us to compete. Congrats again, Victoria! Best of luck in March!

Congratulations to Crusader Elementary at the District Governor's Cup!

Results from District Governors Cup:

Overall Final Standing - 2nd place
Future Problem Solvers - 1st place
Science - Ethan Barker/1st place
Social Studies - Molly Krallman/2nd place
Language Arts - Ethan Barker/5th place
A&H - Molly Krallman/2nd place

Congratulations to the Crusader Middle School at the Regional Governor's Cup! The Middle School Future Problem Solving (FPS) came in FIRST PLACE at both District and Regional Governor's Cup competitions. The team will be heading back to State in March in Louisville. Team members include Camryn Chesnut, Victoria Samotis, Ashlyn Schlake, Noah Francis, and Griffin Gould.

Results from Regional Governors Cup:

Overall final standing - 3rd place
Future Problem Solvers - 1st place
Science - Griffin Gould/3rd place
Social Studies - Evan Barker/3rd place
A&H - Ashlyn Schlake/5th place
Composition - Molly Martini /4th place

by Grace Von Lehman, SHDHS Grade 11

The St. Henry community has already accomplished much in 2017. The cheerleading team won first place in the region's NKCCA competition. The girls' and boys' bowling teams finished very successful seasons, and both basketball teams are finishing out their seasons as well. In the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference swim meet, the girls' swim team placed 2nd and the boys' team placed in the top spot! The girls also went on to place 9th at regionals, while the boys placed 13th. Additionally, three of St. Henry's divers qualified to compete in the state dive meet!

Besides sports, St. Henry's students have been enjoying other activities. Several members of the academic team competed in the district's Governor's Cup tournament, and several of those have qualified to compete further in the tournament at regional and state levels. On Valentine's day, students and teachers received carnations from each other with little notes on them. The carnation deliveries have been a fun tradition at SHDHS. One event that will hopefully become a tradition is the "Spring Fling" semi-formal dance. This year, for the first time, student council is organizing a semi-formal in the spring. It is scheduled for early March and is highly anticipated by the students.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri	Mar 3-Apr 7, Fish Fry, 4:30 - 8:00 pm
Thu	Mar 9-Apr 6, Lenten Mass at 7:00 pm (except Mar 23)
Thu	Mar 23 Deanery Penance Service, St. Pius, 7:00 pm
Sat/Sun	Mar 25/26 International Needs Collection, all Masses
Thu-Sun	Mar 30-Apr 2 Women's Cursillo weekend
Sun	Apr 9 Easter Egg Hunt
Thu	Apr 13 Holy Thursday Mass
Fri	Apr 14 Good Friday service, 3:00 pm Way of the Cross, 7:00 pm
Sat	Apr 15 Easter Vigil Saturday Mass, 8:00 pm
Sun	Apr 16 Easter Sunday
Sun	Apr 30 First Holy Communion, 11:30 am Mass