

# heartbeat

The Pulse of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois

Issue 3  
May 2015

## JOURNEY OF FAITH: CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

See You at Vacation Bible School!







## STRATEGIC PLANNING IN FOCUS

At the time of publication of this magazine, we've had 331 surveys returned to us indicating the feelings of parishioners on the future of Sacred Heart. Our next step is a meeting with the planning committee the first week of June to discuss mission, vision, and values. The committee will receive the report on the surveys and focus groups the week of June 8; this will provide the foundation for the subsequent discussions on June 16 and 17 at which we will determine those issues most important for Sacred Heart to address in the next 3-5 years.

We'll develop the specifics of the plan (tactics) in small groups over the summer with summer working groups coming together on August 18 to coordinate their individual work into a plan that we will present to the parish on Sunday, August 23 at 10 AM for comment, questions, and review. The Parish Council will vote on any recommendations and adopt the final plan at its subsequent meeting. We truly appreciate everyone who has provided feedback via the surveys. Your insight will help to shape the future of our parish!

# CELEBRATING ONE YEAR AT SACRED HEART

Dear Parishioners,

On June 10th I will celebrate my one year anniversary at Sacred Heart. It has been a busy year. A number of people have asked me similar questions in my time here. One thing people ask is, "Do you feel at home at Sacred Heart yet?" Another query is whether I am "happy here or not."

My answer to the first of these questions is that I have moved six times in my priestly life and have never really felt settled wherever I have found myself. I have not had the luxury of staying in one location in my ministry. Throughout the years I have found a soul mate in St. Paul who was an itinerant preacher who moved from place to place strengthening the Christian communities where he found them by helping them to grow and to be closer to Christ. He wanted to leave each church that he served better than he found it. Wherever he went he encountered brothers and sisters who shared his faith, who helped him and supported him.

My answer to the second question is that I have been happy wherever I have been as a priest. Each new assignment has stretched me in new and different ways. I never thought I would be a campus minister nor did I dream that I would pastor a large suburban parish for fourteen years. I did not think that I would run capital campaigns and

oversee construction projects. I did not picture myself here at Sacred Heart. Life is about adapting. As one priest I know said about his ministry, "My existence is lived in constantly moving waters." Such has been the nature of my life. All of the work I have done has been guided by the Spirit. The Lord has provided at every turn.

I think there are many wonderful aspects to Sacred Heart. A lot of people love this parish immensely and give of themselves every day to make things happen. As we move forward in the next few years I pray that we can add to the rich history of Sacred Heart. I am anxious to have the strategic plan for the parish completed this summer and anticipate moving ahead with the goals that come out of that process. Let's pray earnestly for the future of our parish.

As we move into this second summer together, let's continue to get to know each other. What will give me satisfaction is that I be able to say at the end of my time at Sacred Heart, "The people here have grown spiritually and they are stronger in their faith because of the ministry that has happened in this parish while I have been pastor here." We have much to do before that day ever arrives. Let's ask the Lord to guide our hearts and minds and efforts in the days ahead.

Blessings,  
Fr. Mark





# SEE YOU AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

A tradition of many families is to have their children participate in Vacation Bible School (VBS) during the summer months and this year Sacred Heart is offering a week long summer camp that focuses on learning God's plan for us while also having a lot of FUN!

Sharing stories, singing songs, praying and doing fun experiments and crafts are all a part of this year's camp called "SonSpark Labs" by Liguori Publications. VBS will be held June 15-19 from 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Culemans Hall. The cost is \$30 per child, pre-K through 5th graders, with a \$100 family max for those of you who have multiple children that would like to participate. If your child is beyond 5th grade but would still like to participate we would love to have him/her as a volunteer to help us run the camp! If you have questions about VBS, would like to register, or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Ivy Padula at [ivygoes2church@gmail.com](mailto:ivygoes2church@gmail.com) or (309)762-2362 ext. 210.

## PARDON OUR DUST

"Pardon our dust" may be the theme around Sacred Heart this summer and into the fall as we continue to improve our buildings and address the needs of the parish. Many of you have probably already noticed the scaffolding along the east elevation of the church, where tuck-pointing is nearing completion. It is our goal to see four areas of the parish be tuck-pointed in the near future, with the next area to be addressed being the north and east sides of our bell tower.

As funds permit, we will also improve the entryways to our buildings with four new metals doors: one on the east side of the church, one new rear door for the Lee Parish Office Center, and both a front and rear door for the extended daycare portion on the north side of the Lee Center. Mid-June will also see us re-roofing and painting the parish storage garage on 16th Avenue. We recently had five trees trimmed back outside of the Lee Center to prevent over-hang over the building, which was clogging our gutters and downspouts. The New Spirit Singers recently held a fundraiser to install two new microphones in the choir loft, replacing four outdated mics. Collectively, we continue to be proactive in identifying projects for the future, including a study and examination of the roof of the rectory to address recent water damage.

All of this has been made possible thanks to the generosity of parishioners via contributions to the Annual Fund. Our success in being able to tackle future improvements is only possible through your continued assistance. A pamphlet has been published identifying projects we need to address and is available at the doors of the church. Here, parishioners have an opportunity to contribute to specific projects. If you have questions regarding our improvements or would like to classify a gift to a particular project we invite you to contact the parish office or speak with Fr. Mark.



## CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT SACRED HEART

Msgr. Mark Merdian, Vicar - Rock Island Vicariate (pictured above), celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for Sacred Heart's Confirmation candidates this year, Lauren Elizabeth Adam, Daphne Alcaarez, Gavin Baker, Blake Baldwin, Abbie Benson, Alexandra Cajigal, Bryan Cook, Ella David, Alexander DeWitt, Gannon Ethington, Jacqueline Ferreira, Gretel Forsythe, Alexandra Garcia, Vanessa Gonzalez, Bailey Gorgal, Jesus Hernandez, Justin Larrison, Gabbi Loiz, Adamari Lopez-Ruiz, Lukas Mahieu, Isaac Martinez, Danny McLaughlin, Nicholas O'Donnell, Rian O'Hanlon, Brendan Parisot, Cristian Perez, Dalilah Ramos, Daniel Reyes, Ryan Rochholz, Bryce Rogers, Logan Sharer, Zoe Sierra-Ballard, Diamond Taylor, Samantha Timm, Jose Vertiz-Gonzalez, and Faith Wheatley. The liturgy took place on April 19 at a packed 2 p.m. Mass with family and friends on hand to celebrate this momentous day.

On Sunday, May 3 at the 11 a.m. Mass forty children celebrated their First Holy Communion where they partook in the Body and Precious Blood of Our Lord. First Communicants for our 2015 class, Noah Acosta, America Alvarez, Ari Alvarez, Ruben Barrera, Rylan Boemecke, Gabriella Gonzalez, Bennett Gorgal, Fiona Graf, Chloe Hansen, Nicole Hoffman, Drake Holland, Mathew King, Noah Kronfeld, Victor Madrigal-Cisneros, Johan Marquez, Juan Martinez, Julian Martinez, Sofia Miller, Emeterio Moreno, Itati Moreno, Mariah Nichols, Joseline Olea, Mary Pfeiffer, Carlos Ramirez, John Reyes, Alejandra Rios, Romeo Rosas, Sofia Sanchez, Emma Skovronski, Tanner Soucinek, Reina Teague, Jeremias Vargas, Haley Vazquez, Ava Ware, Ethan Ware, Anna Weinberger, Dominic Young, Mark Young, Angel Zepeda, and Angelica Zepeda.





## CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART WITH US

Join us in celebrating the feast day devoted to the namesake of our parish on June 12. We'll begin with Mass in the morning at 8:30 a.m. and will have coffee and donuts afterwards in the Lee Parish Center.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart can trace its devotion back to at least the eleventh century. Following the revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque and Blessed Mary of the Divine Heart Droste zu Vischering, a Mass of the Sacred Heart first won papal approval for use beginning in 1765. By 1856, Pope Pius IX had established the Feast of the Sacred Heart as obligatory for the whole Church.

We celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart as a Solemnity each year by wearing white vestments and since 2002, have also used it as a special day of prayer for the sanctification of priests.

We would love to have you join us for Mass on our feast day and stick around afterwards for fellowship with your Sacred Heart parish family! Hope to see you on June 12.

## LET THE CHILDREN COME... TO INTERVIEW THE POPE!

On May 11, Pope Francis met with a group of 7,000 primary school children to talk about peace, but the pope was faced with a wide range of questions, including how he got along with his siblings while growing up.

The students met with the pontiff at the Vatican's Paul VI Hall as part of the program "The Factory of Peace," an initiative of Italy's Bishops Conference and the country's Ministry of Education.

"True peace is built every day," Francis told the kids, who were accompanied by parents and teachers. Dreaming about a world without war is valid, he said. However, the only way to avoid new conflicts is to "build peace through our work, with our lives, with our love, by being close to each other." When asked about the role of faith in building peace, Francis said that religions help because they make one "walk in the presence of God" and because all of them have a commandment in common: "Love your neighbor."

When he was asked why powerful people often fail to care for the poor and suffering, Francis said that those in power don't always help because "instead of wanting peace,

they want war." The pope also said that for those who put money instead of people at the center of the economic system, war is more profitable. "You make more money with war," Francis said. "But lives, culture, and education are lost."

"Those of you who can say 'I never fought with a sibling,' raise your hands." Few did. "We all have!" Francis said. "Even I have fought many times ... still do, I get riled up ... But I always try to make peace with the other." The pope then told the kids to never go to bed being upset with a relative.

One child asked: Does the pope want some peace? "So many times I'd like to have a moment of peacefulness, a moment to rest, but it's nice to be with people; this doesn't take away the peace! Jealousy, envy, and avarice take peace away," he said. "Although, I am a little tired because I'm not a young man!" Pope Francis said.

Source: Associated Press





# SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC CHURCH  
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

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## HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

### Mass Times

- Sundays: 7, 9, 11 a.m.
- Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.
- Daily Masses (M-F): 6:30, 8:30 a.m.
- Saturday Morning: 8:30 a.m.

### Confessions

Saturday: 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. and by  
appointment, call 762-2362.

### Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

(St. Francis Chapel)

- Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
- First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

