

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

I have heard some justified complaints lately about people leaving the school to go to a neighboring Catholic school because it is cheaper. As much as this saddens me, I can understand the financial burden that a Catholic education can be and the need to lighten the burden. We have done the best we can to try and cut cost for the next year, but we cannot compete with a school that has a one million dollar endowment fund.

The problem is that the parents who are leaving the school, for a cheaper tuition, are promising their children that they can still play their sports here at St. Thomas More. It is no mistake that we have one of the best programs in the Diocese. The complaint that I am receiving is from parents who value the education and commitment of St. Thomas More School and Parish. They feel this is unfair to their children and to those who are struggling to keep their children here. I want everyone to know that I, and the Athletic Board here at St. Thomas More, have heard your complaint. I know that the Athletic Board will be meeting with prospective players and their parents to explain our decision.

After a very long discussion and some very thought provoking comments the final decision is this. We will be taking only students from other schools that reside within our cluster. Also, according to the CYO rules, a family who is double registered (registered at two parishes) may choose to play at either parish in which he/she is registered but must play all sports at that parish. If this student chooses to play here at St. Thomas, they must play all sports here. They cannot play football or cheerlead here in the fall but play basketball at their other parish. They **MUST** play all sports here. They must be active here at St. Thomas More. Active is defined as attending Mass here, supporting the parish and contributing to the life of the parish. Failing to adhere to any of these stipulations will cause the child to lose his or her right to play in the CYO program.

I do not want, nor does the Athletic Board want, any child to be an innocent victim here. It is the hope of the Athletic Board, myself and the parish staff that all children get a fair shot at playing the sport of their choice. In the past, we have been a bit relaxed in this CYO rule and not really followed up to see if any children have played only for us or have played for another school, but please be assured we will be following up this year. We are doing this for

the fairness of our St. Thomas More Day School and PSR students. I truly believe that as long as everyone adheres to the CYO rules there should be no hurt feelings or any child left behind.

Please remember as we are half way through the month of July, our Christmas in July is well on its way. The boxes have been placed in the front of the Church and we have narrowed down the charities to being the Zechariah House and Deacon Marty's Prison Ministry. Please be kind to both of these very worthy causes. It is during the summer months that their supplies begin to dwindle and they are in desperate need of our help. Thank you for your generosity in advance.

Peace and Goodness,

Fr. Bill

CATECHIST NEEDED FOR GRADE 6 PSR

We are looking for someone willing to be a catechist for Grade 6 PSR. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Barker at the rectory.

PARISH PRAYER FOR PEACE

Please pray for our troops, our country, and world peace. We will gather in the Marian Chapel to pray the rosary for peace on Tuesday, July 20th at 7pm.

BIBLE STUDY- FAITH SHARING

Our Bible "Study" has become more of a faith sharing because we see what Paul wrote several years ago really applies to us today. If you would like to join us, we meet in the church library at 7pm on Monday evenings except on the third Monday.

CHURCH LIBRARY

We have recently completed the first phase of our inventory process. Books and miscellaneous items no longer in circulation are available to you free of cost. These items and materials will be available after all Masses this weekend on tables in the church vestibule.

CASINO BUS TRIP

On Tuesday, August 10th we will be having a bus trip to Seneca Alleghany. The cost is \$27 per person and includes \$35 in free play. The bus will depart from STM at 8am and return no later than 9pm. **The registration deadline has been extended to Thursday, July 22nd** as we already have one bus filled and are working on filling a second bus. Please contact Mrs. Barker with any questions at 216-749-0414.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

STM is now collecting your Christmas in July donations in the boxes marked with the names of the charities involved in the church. We thank you in advance for your generosity. The following items are needed:

Prison Ministry- First Class postage stamps, #10 4x9 envelopes, Reader's Digest, Catholic Digest, Salesian Inspirational Books, notebook paper, Newsweek, Time, sports magazines, National Geographic, 9x12 manila envelopes (no clasps), and paperback books (especially westerns, thrillers, suspense and sci-fi).

Zechariah House- Baby wipes, infant diapers (size 2-4), toilet paper, postage stamps, feminine hygiene products, trash bags (13 and 55 gallon), thank you notes, copy/printer paper, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, grocery, home improvement and drug store gift cards.

2010 FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION

The STM Athletic Association is now registering athletes in grades 4th-8th during open registration through August 9th for **football** (participation fee: \$150, uniform deposit: \$100), **volleyball** (participation fee: \$115, uniform deposit: \$50), and **cheerleading** (participation fee: \$100, uniform deposit: \$100). We're offering a package price for girls that want to participate in **cheerleading and volleyball** this fall (participation fee: \$150, uniform deposit: \$150). Athletics does not want a child who wants to participate in any of the CYO sports we offer shut out because of the increasing costs we are facing to run the athletic program. We will work with every family to ensure their child can participate. Payment plans are also available. **All physicals must be turned in to the Athletic Department before the student may participate in practice.** Please contact Rob at 216-548-6748 or Alison at 216-849-3813 with questions or if you are interested in coaching.

HONOR ROLL

Walsh Jesuit High School is proud to announce that the following students from St. Thomas More Parish have made the honor roll for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year: Kelsey Fischietto and Kayleigh Fischietto. Congratulations!

PARKING LOT

After the 10am Mass last weekend, it was reported that somebody hit a red 2005 Toyota Rav4 in the parking lot and did not leave a note. If you know anything about this incident, please call the rectory. Thanks!

Cluster Corner

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE

Bingo- Bingo is held in the Parish Center every Friday. Doors open at 5:30pm and Early Bird at 7pm. Food and snacks available.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO

Reunion- St. Charles Class of 1985 is planning a 25-year reunion for September 25-26th. Please share this information with classmates that graduated in 1985!

ST. LEO THE GREAT

St. Leo's Festival- St. Leo's Festival is August 6 through August 8 on the parish grounds. There will be music, games, Casino and more. New this year is a Cornhole Tournament; registration is \$30.

JOB SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting is Thursday, July 22nd at 7pm in the rectory basement. We are working with the Cuyahoga County Library's Career Center to offer the most current job advice possible. Everyone is welcome to attend these free meetings. Please bring a friend and spread the word. If you have any questions or need more information, please call Tina Hovan at 216-402-2257. We hope to see you there!

STM CHOIR FUNDRAISER

A very sincere thanks to each and every person who attended our fundraiser for the choir on July 6th. The turnout was fantastic and the management and staff were overwhelmed! It truly is a testament to our unity as a parish! Thank you all very much. Remember to keep Monday, September 13th open for another fun dining experience at Applebee's to benefit our choir once again. Together we can make beautiful music!

CORNHOLE AND 4-SQUARE

Any high school student is invited to the HSYM Cornhole and 4-Square night, this Sunday, July 18th from 7-9pm. This event is free and free snacks will be provided. Bring friends!!!

HSYM PICNIC AND OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALL

HSYM is planning a picnic and evening of outdoor volleyball (and other games) next Sunday, July 25th from 6-8:30pm. Details are still being determined. Check out the HSYM website for more details.

BINGO

Bingo is held at STM every Wednesday in the gym. Doors open at 5pm and Early Birds begin at 6:30pm.