



# St. Peter's Currents

## *In This Issue*

**Page 3**

**We are one Body in Christ**

**Page 4**

**The Ugandan Mission Team Bridges Cultures and Faith**

**Page 6**

**The Bible  
The Textbook of Stewardship**

**Page 7**

**The Rosary: Our Lady's Lasso**

**Page 8**

**May Events at St. Peter**

## *Sharing His Mercy at St. Peter: Divine Mercy Cenacle*

**I**n 1933, God gave Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska, a young member of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Cracow, Poland, a striking vision of His Mercy. In her renowned diary, the now-St. Faustina wrote, "I saw a great light, with God the Father in the midst of it. Between this light and the earth I saw Jesus nailed to the Cross and in such a way that God, wanting to look upon the earth, had to look through Our Lord's wounds, and I understood that God blessed the earth for the sake of Jesus."



*The members of the Divine Mercy Cenacle at St. Peter. (First row, from left) Carol Mulvihill, Kurian and Pam Cherucheril, Marilyn Hays, Alice Mayers, Janet Misgen. (Second row, from left) Jane Weidner, Sue Taylor, Clare Eldridge, Dawn Kulaszewicz, Ceil Schommer, Ken Misgen. (Not pictured are Mary Ann Maehren, Maureen Miller, Mary O'Neill, Alice Paczkowski, and Joan Wiik.)*

Although she only received three years of very simple education, in obedience to her spiritual director, St. Faustina recorded a diary of around 600 pages telling of the revelations she received of God's mercy, including the power of praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. As God revealed to her, "When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will

# Divine Mercy Cenacle Article *continued from front cover*

stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Savior.”

In light of this beautiful revelation, the Divine Mercy Cenacle was formed here at St. Peter’s.

“The Divine Mercy Cenacle has been at St. Peter’s about three to four years,” says Carol Mulvihill, the coordinator. “We study the diary of St. Faustina, read Scripture and the *Catechism*, have a formation book with discussion questions, and pray. We always pray especially for the sick and dying, priests, and an end to abortion.”

Following the 9 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, the Divine Mercy Cenacle meets for prayer, reading and discussion. The group also leads a Divine Mercy Chaplet on Tuesdays during Adoration following the morning Mass, and they also offer a parish celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, which is the Sunday following Easter.

“How I got involved in the cenacle is a strange story,” Carol says. “I was working a job where I was becoming very sleep-deprived, doing data entry out of my home. When I picked up the paperwork, I would stop at a Caribou nearby. I developed a friendship with a cashier there and she invited me to check out the cenacle she belonged to at another parish.”

After praying with this group for a couple years, Carol felt called to bring the message of His mercy to St. Peter’s.

“God works in mysterious ways,” Carol says. “He is so merciful and we have to trust in His mercy. Our group has grown by leaps and bounds. We do spiritual works of mercy at our meetings, by praying for the sick and the dying. We also do corporal works of mercy by feeding the homeless at Caring and Sharing Hands together.”

The Divine Mercy Cenacle group at St. Peter is open to all who are interested in attending.

“Anyone can join at anytime,” Carol says. “Sometimes we have people come just to check us out and they usually stay and become members because they enjoy the group so much. It would be helpful to be Catholic, but there are no requirements.”

For more information about the Divine Mercy Cenacle, please call Carol Mulvihill at 651-453-1345, or check the parish bulletin. Those interested may also simply attend and participate on Wednesday mornings following Mass. And for more information on St. Faustina or God’s Divine Mercy, St. Faustina’s diary is available online or wherever books are sold.



*“Our group has grown by leaps and bounds. We do spiritual works of mercy at our meetings, by praying for the sick and the dying. We also do corporal works of mercy by feeding the homeless at Caring and Sharing Hands together.”*

*— Carol Mulvihill*

## “We are one Body in Christ.”

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The past few months have certainly been exciting for us as Catholics. It began with Pope Benedict XVI's resignation; then the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Francis; and of course our traditional rich celebration of Lent gave way to the Easter season which follows. Easter Time continues this month until Sunday, May 19, which is Pentecost.

The Senior Cardinal Deacon stepped on to the balcony of St. Peter's above the thousands and thousands gathered below and proclaimed “*Habemus Papam*” (“We have a Pope.”). The people below began to chant “*Viva il Papa*” (“Long live the Pope.”) and His Holiness Pope Francis blessed them.

We all gained a greater understanding of what it means to be the steward of the Church — the Pope — through the example of Benedict XVI, and our new shepherd, a new steward — Pope Francis. As we think about the role he plays in our Church and in our faith lives, it is well for us to keep in mind that we — you and I — are the stewards of our own parish here at St. Peter. What does that mean, to be the stewards of the Church? In the Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the U.S. Bishops included an entire chapter on this subject titled appropriately “Stewards of the Church.”

In that chapter the Bishops state “Because the individual members (of the Church) do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health and well-being are the responsibility of the members — the personal responsibility of each one of us.”

Our Lord often tried to remind us through Holy Scripture that we share the responsibility for His Church. From the days immediately following His Resurrection He began pre-



paring His Apostles, and each of us as well, to be stewards of His Church. It is no coincidence that on Pentecost Sunday, in the Second Reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we hear these words: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them for everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.”

I acknowledge that I heard the call from the Lord, and I responded. That is why I am blessed to be a priest. At the same

time, I challenge you to listen for your call. Have you considered what it is? Have you responded? That, my friends, is what stewardship is all about. It is each of us seeking how we fit into the Lord's Church. It is each of us responding. It is each of us contributing in multiple ways to build the Kingdom of God, right now, today. As Paul continued in the reading for Pentecost Sunday, “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and we are all given to drink of one Spirit.”

Let us all — Benedict the Pope Emeritus, our Holy Father Pope Francis, and each one of us at St. Peter's — vow to be what Jesus wants us to be: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works.” (Matthew 5:16)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Gallatin  
Pastor

# *The Ugandan Mission Team Bridges Cultures and Faith*



*Francis Nankunda is a student sponsored by our parish.*



*Fr. Lawrence, Fr. John and Fr. Gallatin, pastor of St. Peter's, visit with a parishioner family.*



*Joseph Ssentongo is a student sponsored by our parish.*

**I**n the summer of 2006, an incredible event occurred in our parish when a visiting priest appealed to us for help in establishing an education program in central Uganda. As a parish, not only did we listen to his needs, but we also recognized the potential to serve and immediately put our faith into action by forming a parish-sponsored Ugandan Mission Team. And by opening our hearts, an ongoing friendship was established between St. Peter's in Mendota and St. Anthony's in Migyera – a friendship which has bridged the gap between two continents.

From that very first visit seven years ago, Fr. Lawrence Kimbowa Kizito made it clear that education is key in helping the impoverished children in his area to gain knowledge and skills which will help them be productive as adults. Therefore, Fr. Lawrence and the Ugandan Mission Team coordinated the Student Sponsorship Program, which enables parishioners to sponsor a child, thus providing him or her with assistance toward school fees — including those for exams, boarding and meals — as well as uniforms and school supplies like calculators and books.

“As a result of the compassion and generosity of our parishioners, the program has continually supported 75 to 100 students annually in this worthy cause,” says Ralph Dumond, coordinator for the Ugandan Mission Team.

Of course, the needs of the Ugandan people are many — and in addition to the Student Sponsorship Program, the parish has assisted with other appeals, such as helping Fr. Lawrence raise the necessary funds for a church roof. Furthermore, the Mission Team also hosts its annual Pig Roast and Auction in order to promote sponsorship, as well as to thank the generous parishioners who serve as sponsors to a child. With the donations generated by the event, the team has been able to provide funds for an altar and tabernacle, a bore-hole well, a “piglet program” and, when there was a major crop failure in Uganda, the means to be able to replant.

*“It is humbling to know that our t  
helped so many young people stre  
attaining the education they need to*

*— Jim*

*continued from previous page*

“The Pig Roasts were established as a way to thank the sponsors,” says Ralph. “The team provides the entire dinner from their personal funds in order to show our appreciation of everyone’s support. It’s also an invitation to anyone in the parish to come enjoy a meal, get some information, and see what we’re doing.”

And what the team is doing is truly amazing. Since 2006, they have raised over \$200,000 — with every penny going straight to Uganda. Fr. Lawrence recently informed the team that the majority of sponsored students have continued their education beyond the primary level, with several working on their undergraduate degrees, and some even entering the seminary.

“It is humbling to know that our team and our parish’s support has helped so many young people strengthen their Catholic faith while attaining the education they need to be successful in their native land,” says Jim Hoey, a mission team member.

Ralph believes that being part of something like this has been a blessing on many levels. He and his wife, Kathi, have opened up their home to visiting priests from Uganda on several occasions, and Ralph points out that people all over the world have the same wants in life — to be able to work, make a living, and feel safe in their own neighborhoods.

Of course, despite being separated by culture and geography, we are fundamentally more alike than we are different. And through the efforts of the Ugandan Mission Team, two parishes on two separate continents are forever joined through service, faith and friendship.

The Ugandan Mission Team is anticipating another visit from Fr. Lawrence later in the year and is planning another Pig Roast and Auction in July. Please check the bulletin for details. Those who would like more information about sponsoring a child or joining the team may contact Ralph Dumond at 651-456-0986, or Jim Hoey at 651-994-7870.

*team and our parish’s support has  
strengthen their Catholic faith while  
to be successful in their native land.”  
n Hoey*



*Fr. Lawrence and Fr. John in front of the sign for the historic Church of St. Peter's.*



*Fr. Lawrence, Fr. Gallatin and Fr. John after Mass in the gathering area of the Church of St. Peter.*



*The Ugandan Mission Team members in 2009*

# The Bible

## *The Textbook of Stewardship*

**H**ave you ever wished that life came with an instruction manual? What a valuable resource that would be! Whenever you find yourself running in circles, this instruction manual would give you step-by-step instructions on how to fix the problem and reroute your course.

Well, here's some good news. For those living a Christian life, there is such a manual — the Bible.

Sometimes referred to as the “textbook of stewardship,” the Bible is a bountiful resource for the present-day Christian. Written by anointed prophets and sages, this collection of divinely-inspired parables, poems and letters is full of testimonials that express the blessings that come from true discipleship, expressed through lives of stewardship.

Stewardship is not a new concept. The Bible gives proof to this claim through passages such as the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy. We read Moses' words, as he tells the Israelites to offer the choicest portions of their harvest to God: “When you have come into the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have occupied it and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land which the Lord, your God, gives you, and putting them in a basket, you shall go to the place which the Lord, your God, will choose for the dwelling place of his name... ‘Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And having set them before the LORD, your God, you shall bow down in his presence” (Dt 26: 1-2, 10).

St. Paul briefly touches on the essence of stewardship when he said, “In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

Again, in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we read about living a life of Christian stewardship: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

While this is well and good, what does it mean for the present day Christian? Why should it matter that the Bible alludes to stewardship in various passages? It shows us that Christians and Jews have struggled with and benefitted from the concept of stewardship for thousands of years. It ties the message of stewardship to the role of a Christian disciple. It gives proof that stewardship and discipleship go hand-in-hand. It offers encouragement to us, that stewardship is in fact a foundational component of the Christian life, a way of



life that one of the founding fathers of the Church – St. Paul – preached about and advocated.

The Bible is indeed the textbook of stewardship. It lays out the steps we must take to become true disciples of Christ. Reading and meditating upon God's Word is always a fruitful exercise. Those who regularly delve into Scripture often develop a deeper understanding of who God is, how and why He loves us, and how we can show Him our love in return — all most certainly important topics of discussion for any steward-in-the-making.

As you strive to become a grateful steward and live the life of Christian discipleship, develop a love for Sacred Scripture. Allow God's Word to nourish your soul regularly, and watch as stewardship changes from a foreign concept to an integral component of your daily life.

# The Rosary: *Our Lady's Lasso*

An old priest once said, "It is no coincidence that Rosaries look like lassos, as Our Lady wraps them around lost souls and pulls them out of the depths of Hell."

This thought is comforting but provokes inquiry — what exactly is the Rosary, how does one pray it, and why should one pray it?

Since May is the Month of the Mary, this is a great time to utilize reason in defense of faith and try to understand the theology behind this intense spiritual weapon.

There are two putative origins of the Rosary. For many centuries, it was believed that the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Dominic and exhorted him to encourage the use of the Angelic Salutation — or Hail Mary — for the conversion of souls and comfort of the afflicted. Modern scholarship traces the Rosary back to ninth century Irish monasticism. Monks would pray all 150 psalms (the entire "psalter") every day, a form of prayer too complicated for uneducated laypeople without access to copies of Scripture. So many began reciting the Lord's Prayer or the Angelic Salutation in response to each psalm, keeping count with pebbles or a knotted rope. Through many centuries, the Rosary evolved into three sets of five mysteries, each mystery consisting of 10 Angelic Salutations and one Lord's Prayer recited while meditating upon the life, death, or glory of Jesus Christ.

In *The Secret of the Rosary*, St. Louis De Montfort expounds the dynamics of the Rosary. The prayer consists of both vocal or exterior prayer, and meditative or interior prayer. The first vocal component of the Rosary, the Creed, is important because faith is "the foundation of all Christian virtues, of all eternal virtues, and also of all prayers that are pleasing to Almighty God." The Lord's Prayer is the "perfect prayer" to the God of Heaven because it was authored by Christ, is free of all human limitations, and "contains all the duties we owe to God, the acts of all the virtues and the petitions for all our spiritual and corporal needs." The Hail

Mary blesses the name of Mary and her Divine Son and implores her powerful intercession as mediatrix of graces.

But the Rosary is not simply a physical incantation. Vocal prayer is accompanied by contemplation of the mysteries of Christ's life and the virtues of the Virgin. It is by lifting the incorporeal soul in prayer that one quiets the passions, tastes the peace of Christ, marvels at his loving plans and promises, and grows in the desire to emulate Him and his sinless mother. Because the soul animates the body, a strengthened soul means nobility of action and a will that is commensurate with the will of God.

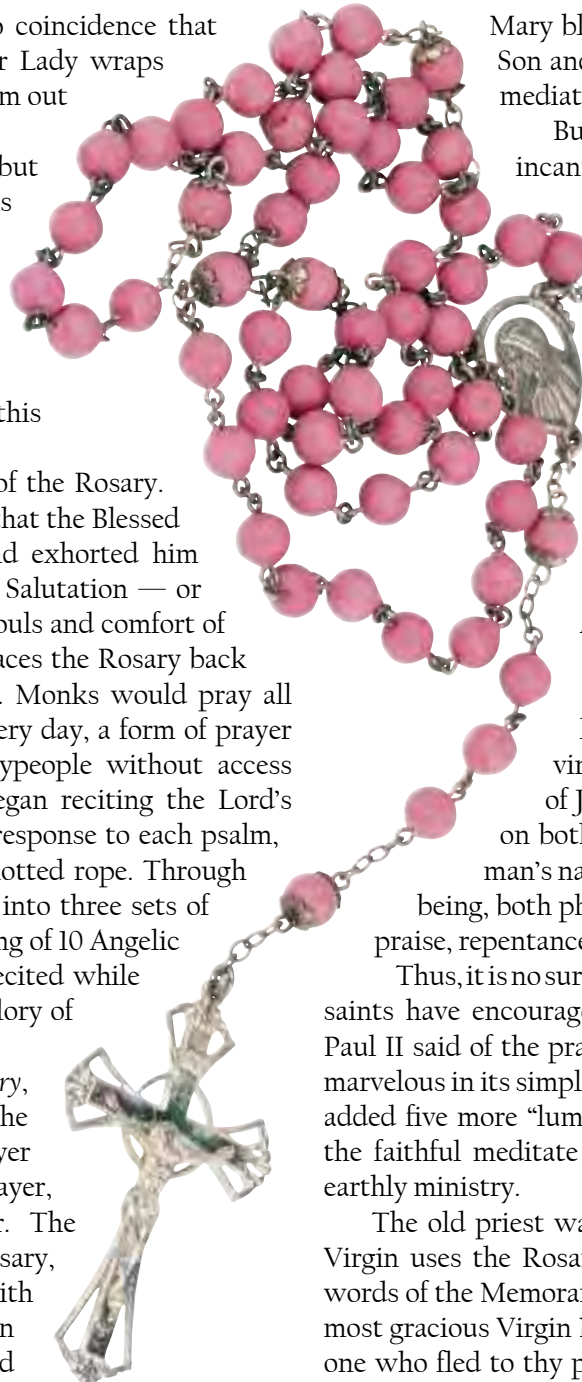
As Louis de Montfort says, "The Rosary is a blessed blending of mental and vocal prayer by which we honor and learn to imitate the mysteries and the virtues of the life, death, passion and glory of Jesus and Mary." The Rosary's emphasis on both vocal and meditative prayer caters to man's nature as an embodied soul — one's entire

being, both physical and spiritual, cries out to God in praise, repentance, thanksgiving and supplication.

Thus, it is no surprise that the magisterium and countless saints have encouraged devotion to the Rosary. Pope John Paul II said of the prayer, "The Rosary is my favorite prayer, marvelous in its simplicity and its depth." The late pontiff also added five more "luminous" mysteries to the Rosary to help the faithful meditate upon significant moments in Christ's earthly ministry.

The old priest was correct in asserting that the Blessed Virgin uses the Rosary to convert lost souls. However, the words of the Memorare must be remembered: "Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided."

In order for the Rosary to help us, it must be actively embraced and recited frequently and fervently.



# Church of St. Peter

1405 Highway 13, PO Box 50679 | Mendota, MN 55150  
(651) 452-4550 | [www.stpetersmendota.org](http://www.stpetersmendota.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Twin Cities MN  
Permit No. 5000

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## May/June Events at St. Peter

Saturday, May 4 — First Holy Communion  
5 p.m. Mass

Sunday, May 5 — First Holy Communion  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses

Sunday, May 5 — Rosary Clinic  
10:15 a.m. at Historic Church

Friday, May 10 — Confirmation Mini Retreat  
6 p.m. at Heritage Center

Sunday, May 12 — Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast  
8 a.m. at Heritage Center

Thursday, May 16 — Volunteer Appreciation Dinner  
6 p.m. at Heritage Center

Saturday, May 18 — CCW Style Show  
11:30 a.m. at Heritage Center

Saturday, May 18 — Men's Club Wine Tasting  
6 p.m. at Heritage Center

Tuesday, May 21 — Adoration with  
Worship and Praise Music  
6:30 p.m. at Historic Church

Sunday, June 9 — Workcamp Car Wash  
8 a.m. in Lower Parking Lot

Sunday, June 9 — Anointing of the Sick  
Noon

Saturday, June 15 — Golf Tournament  
8 a.m. shotgun start, Emerald Greens Golf Course in Hastings

[www.stpetersmendota.org](http://www.stpetersmendota.org)

**Weekend Mass:** Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Vigil | Sunday, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

**Daily Mass:** Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.

**Confession:** Saturdays, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. and by appointment