

St. Dominic Catholic parish

Seek CHRIST

An inspiring view of Parish life

October 2010

A Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 3 Issue 3

Answering God's Call

Respect Life, Teach Life,
Honor Life

By Angela Zuniga-Meyer, Parishioner & Seek Christ Editor

Respect Life. Teach Life.
Honor Life.

These ideals are ever-present within our parish not only during Respect Life month of October, but within our **parishioners' daily ministry.**

Parishioner Mary Baxa Respects Life on a daily basis through her passion for Pro-Life ministry. She participates on the St. Dominic Respect Life Committee, which organizes activities to promote the sanctity of all life from **conception to natural death.** Mary's Pro-Life efforts span 30 years. She is active in Life Chain, Pro-Life WI, WI Right to Life and the Christ Child Society which are all community or state based programs.

Mary coordinates St. Dominic events, works on auctions for Pro-Life group banquets, volunteers at the Women's Support Center and enjoys fundraising via eBay for the Milwaukee Christ Child Society. Mary serves these ministries

"I want the woman I serve to know that Christ is forgiving." Mary Baxa

because **"there are lives at stake.** If you saw a child in a burning building... wouldn't you feel compelled to do what you could to save that child? Just because unborn babies are not seen does not change their worth."

Mary Teaches Life by educating young mothers about the value of the life they carry and the abortive nature of **IUD's and chemical birth control.** She also assists new parents & children with basic needs. Each group Mary serves with **"holds human life as sacred. Each group looks to serve the child, born or unborn, as Jesus asked us to do."** Adhering to a statement by Blessed Mother Teresa, "It is a poverty that a child must die so that you may choose to live as you wish."

Mary feels this ministry and her involvement are important because

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The measure of love is to love without measure.



Your Photos



Blessing of the Animals on October 2 included creatures great and small!

Planned Giving

Your annual stewardship gifts provide the lifeline to our Parish programs. Support the people and the ministries of St. Dominic with an enduring gift of faith. Contact Karen Chaffee, Director of Finance Administration, about ways to remember the Church through your will.

St. Dominic Parish believes we have been called to spread the **“Good News” of Jesus Christ. As part of this mission, we publish a variety of communications including the St. Dominic Web site, which highlight the people, ministries, programs and events of our parish.**

Photos of individuals will not include personal identifiable information without prior written consent. If you would like further information regarding our policy, including our *Information Release Form*, please contact Meg Picciolo, Director of Marketing Communication at 262.781.3480 or meg.picciolo@stdominic.net.

If you have an inspiring story or photos to share for our next issue, please contact Meg Picciolo at 262.781.3480 or meg.picciolo@stdominic.net

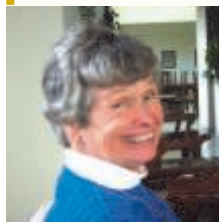
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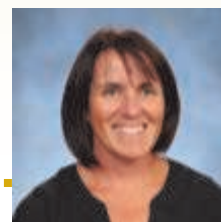
Meet our Special Contributors:



Ethel Cahill



Dan Herda



Patti Simmons



Angela Zuniga-Meyer

Mass of Remembrance to Honor Those Who Have Died

Wednesday, November 10th, 6:30 p.m.



Our parish community will gather to remember all those who have gone before us in faith. We will gather this night to remember them and celebrate their lives. We will name those in our community who have been buried in the last year and we honor their memory with song, word and light. Those who grieve do not grieve alone, so the presence of the Christian community is very important to us on this evening. The ministry of consolation belongs to each of us, because we are brothers and sisters in the Lord. In solidarity with those who are grieving, you are invited to participate with your family in this evening of remembrance.

Mass that evening begins with the Inscription of Names in the Book of the Names of the Dead at 6:15 p.m. If you would like to remember someone in prayer that night, please inscribe their name in the Book that will be displayed in the south Narthex.

Throughout the entire month of November, the Book of the Names of the Dead will be displayed near the baptismal font. Pictures of loved ones may be brought in and displayed in the harvest corner in the north Narthex. As Autumn reminds us of God’s plentiful harvest, we remember also the abundant life God gives to the souls of our loved ones.

By Fr. Sean O'Connell, Associate Pastor

Imagine asking a parish priest 30 years ago about evangelization and the response you might have received at that time. Perhaps, the priest would have spoken about the importance of strong preaching, or the effectiveness of parish Renew Groups where people would come together to listen to the Word of God and share their faith.



Maybe the priest would have spoken strongly about outreach ministries in the parish and the desire to bring the Gospel to the streets.

Asking that same question to a parish priest today might not offer a whole different answer, but it would include a very specific component, the massively important and essential element of technology in the work of evangelization. In a world where information is spread around the globe in seconds, the Gospel of Christ has penetrated the likes of Facebook, My Space, Twitter, and the blogosphere. Hooray for this important means of evangelization! Some people might confuse the Church as being old-fashioned and oblivious to the cutting edge forms of technology in our world, but they would be surprised to see the results that appear from any Google search mentioning the name: **Roman Catholic Church. Now I'm not so naive** as to believe that technology is a fail

proof means of learning everything correctly about the Catholic faith, but I have seen the success of this means of evangelization and I can appreciate the potential for even further developments.



As you know, yours truly has even dabbled in this new form of **evangelization. Don't believe me?**



Check out my blog: **"Word to the Father"** which can be accessed from the St. Dominic Web site: www.stdominic.net

Exploring Our Faith

Your Questions Answered

By Dan Herda, Seek Christ Editor & Parishioner

Q: There are a variety of symbols on the stained glass windows along the top of the church. What do these symbols represent?

A: Each set of windows depicts elements from the mysteries of the rosary:

The Joyful Mysteries (The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation, and The Finding in the Temple.) You can see the Nativity in symbol form on these windows.

The Sorrowful Mysteries (The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning of Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, and The Crucifixion.) (On these windows you'll see symbols of the crown of thorns, as well as the carrying of the cross and crucifixion.)

The Glorious Mysteries (The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption, and The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin.) Here you'll see a dove representing Pentecost, as well as symbols for The Assumption and The Crowning of Mary. (The Fleur-de-lis is a symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary.)





St. Dominic parish members including Emily Orgovan (inset) along with other participants take part in the peaceful, prayerful Life Chain witness against abortion on October 3, 2010

Mary Karen is drawn to ministry because she **“wants to do God’s will”**. She is compassionate with the dying and those who journey with them. Mary Karen Respects Life by providing hospice patients with dignity and respect while emphasizing the quality of life. She visits patients, gives plenty of hugs and allows them to talk about things that really matter in life; frequently praying and reading reflections and/or scripture with patients and sometimes even providing soothing or inspirational music or guided imagery. Mary Karen **understands, “most Christian faiths, including Catholics, hold that when the burdens of this life outweigh the benefits, we need not cling to this life. We believe in a better life to come. We can allow death to take its natural course.”** As the process of death can be scary, she then provides love,

Continued from the front page...

“I love children. I have seen firsthand the struggles young moms face. I strive to see that they make loving life choices so that they never look back with regret.”

Mary Honors Life by continually defending human life. **“I consider it my crusade to save the lives of the innocent and to help moms make life-giving choices.”** Mary hopes women see that **“my compassion for them comes from my love of Christ and through Him, a love for women and their children. I want the woman I serve to know that Christ is forgiving.”**

We do not begin life as free and autonomous individuals. We are entirely dependent on others for our very existence. We are born into families—the “schools of love” where, over time, we learn to forgo the immediate satisfaction of every self-centered desire and we find true, lasting joy in bringing good and happiness to others.

~ Flyer, Respect Life Program (2010)

Just as the beginning of life is a precious gift so is passing of a life. Both require special ministers of faith to protect those in their most delicate stages.

St. Dominic parishioner Mary Karen Halmstad exemplifies the Catholic ideals of the upholding the sanctity of life nearing an end as she serves as chaplain at AngelsGrace Hospice in Oconomowoc. She cares for the spiritual needs of hospice patients and their families.

consolation, and reassurance during this holy time in **a patient’s life as they are on the threshold of a more intimate life with God.**

Mary Karen Halmstad also Teaches Life by providing handouts, Care Notes, or other helpful resources. **She reassures patients of God’s love, presence and forgiveness.** She reminds patients that Christ often said **“Peace be with you” or “Do not be afraid.”** He does the same at our death. He does not want us to be afraid. Jesus and loved ones are waiting for us.

To Honor Life, Mary Karen performs funeral services when requests are received. Mary Karen consoles families and shares special prayers and scriptures with the family when patients pass on. Annually, she also



Parishioner Annie Ruka (center) at AngelsGrace Hospice with other volunteers.

holds a Memorial Service for families of the deceased. Mary Karen feels her service allows “people of all faiths to come to greater faith in and awareness of God and his great love”. And she delights in the feeling “of working hand in hand with God in caring for his beloved people.”

Parishioner, Annie Ruka also serves at AngelsGrace Hospice. Annie Respects Life by bringing to those nearing the end of their physical life her special gifts of a listening ear, spirituality, compassion and a willingness to comfort. She finds that volunteering with hospice care does not test her faith but **rather strengthens it. She often feels God’s presence, or sees the beauty of God in patients.** She assists in making patients comfortable and enjoys listening to them reminisce. Annie finds that both she and the patients can Teach Life and learn something new from each other while patients revel in the opportunity to share their life stories.

Annie serves in hospice because “Everyone needs to feel that they are not alone, that they have someone nearby and that **they have someone to love them at the time of death.**” Annie Ruka Honors Life by praying for the patients as she sits bedside or holds their hand while they are sleeping; especially **when she notices a patient is listed as having no faith.** “That is a real concern to me”, she states and “then I try to say extra prayers for that patient”. Annie understands that through the simple act of volunteering and by sharing her spirituality she facilitates the growth of the Catholic faith and ideals within others.



Top: The Jensen Family teaches their children to respect and honor life by having their children visit with nursing home residents. Above: Mary Karen Halmstad at the annual AngelsGrace Memorial Service for families of those who have passed

“Everyone needs to feel that they are not alone, that they have someone nearby and that they have someone to love them at the time of death.” Annie Ruka

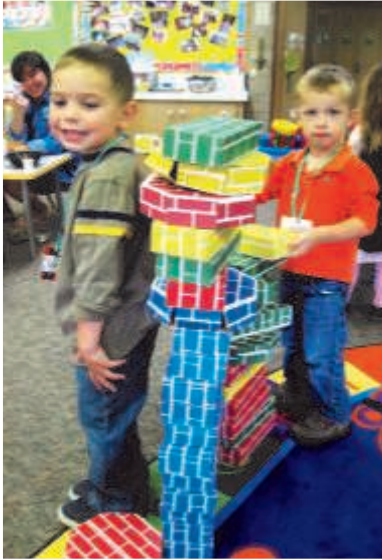
With Respect Life month drawing to a close, we examine how some of our own parishioners honor these ideals. Not only do the parishioners at St. Dominic Respect Life, Teach Life and Honor Life, they truly *Celebrate Life* in all its stages.

Is God calling you to serve others through the many areas of Respect Life?

Contact Susan McNeil, Pastoral Associate for Human Concerns at 262.781.3480 or susan.mcneil@stdominic.net.

Every human being, at every stage and condition, is willed and loved by God. For this reason, every human life is sacred. To deprive someone of life is a grave wrong and a grave dishonor to God. Because we are created in the image of God, who is Love, our identity and our vocation is to love. Pope Benedict has called this “the key to (our) entire existence.”







Gym Class

From 1980-1982 Marketing Brochure



A completely new gym for physical education classes and league volleyball and basketball competition.

Our Parish Reaches Its Magnificence—1981

Splendid. Noble. Impressive. These are the definitions of magnificence, and they could very well define what the eighties promise as reward for **St. Dominic's continuous efforts at fellowship, unity, and growth, symbolized** by the construction of our new edifice. The St. Dominic School will at last have its gymnasium; and we will at last have a permanent church building. This edifice stands as a memorial to all what we, as a parish, have accomplished in just twenty-five short years.

The idea for the new church had been brewing for the entire life of the parish. When the first church was built it was deemed temporary. So much had to be done, to be built, the school, the convent, the rectory, plus keeping the parish functioning. That took time, and most of all money, funds that were hard to come by. But with the beginning of the eighties and the parish in better financial condition than it had been in years, it was decided that the time was right and that a new church was needed and thereby should be planned as soon as possible.

This we did, and construction began after a ground breaking ceremony on July 13, 1981. The architect for the church was Rugg and Knopp of New Berlin and the contractor was R.J. Prossen, Inc and J. DeWalt of Brookfield, both of whom are fellow parishioners donating much time and effort toward our new church. *Excerpt from: St. Dominic's Catholic Church, Its History, Its People, and Its Faith*

Where We're Going

Vision 2012

Vision 2012: Financial Strength

Vision: Our parish's annual operation and expanded spiritual, educational, and formational programs will be supported by a strong financial commitment of our parishioners.

The parish structure includes a number of committees, groups, and staff members that in consultation with the Pastor, have financial analysis and monitoring responsibilities. These groups include the Finance Committee, Parish Council, Stewardship Committee, Endowment Board and the Parish Trustees.

The Finance Committee works with the Stewardship Committee in building successful annual treasure commitments **and utilizes resources provided by past consultants, such as The James Company and O'Meara, Ferguson, Whelan, and Conway, Inc.**, which was involved in the current Faith in our Future Campaign. A member of the Finance Committee serves as an assigned representative on the Stewardship Committee. The Finance Committee also prepares and submits a report on parishioner giving trends and proposed stewardship actions to Parish Council.

Continued efforts to communicate other opportunities for stewardship, such as matching gifts, in kind gifts, and planned giving are being made jointly by the Marketing and Stewardship Committees through new brochures, online information, and regular parish publications. Action steps to promote the parish Endowment Fund are under review. The Annual Parish Financial Report includes information about the Endowment Fund and the earnings used for tuition assistance for the day school and lifelong faith formation programs during the past fiscal year. Ongoing promotion through regular parish publications continues.

Our parish financial goals include efforts to increase the percentage of parishioners responding to the call of stewardship and to strengthen the Endowment Fund to provide for current and future programming.



By an Anonymous Parishioner

My Retirement Vocation

I have been retired for almost nine years, but I still remember how unsettling and confusing the first few months of retirement were until I developed a new rhythm for my life. I was reminded of this time of my life again the other day while reading my *My Daily Visitor* (highly recommended!). The guest writer, Donna McMaster, posed this question, "How well am I living my vocation?"

"Vocation," I thought, "I'm retired!" However, thinking further about this I realized that her question was appropriate. In the most accepted sense of the word, a vocation is "the work in which a person is employed." A more practical meaning is "a type of work that you feel you are suited to doing and to which you should give all your time and energy." In this broader context, we should all have a vocation whether we are working or retired or otherwise. *Summarily, it is your calling.* It is the something everyone should be able to identify and can articulate at the drop of a hat.

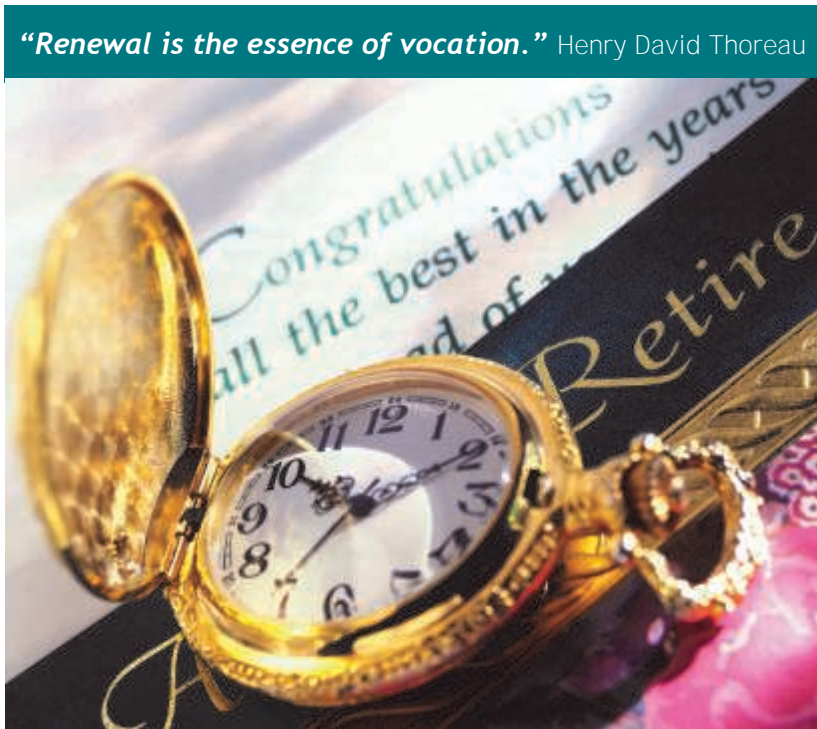
Three ways to help find your vocation :

- 1 **Look back at the most satisfying 'projects' in your life**—is there a recurring theme? For example, encouraging people, inventing products, solving problems, creating beauty, making the world a better place...
- 2 **Think about what form of work best fits your personality**—working as an individual, as a team member, or as a leader.
- 3 **Where do you usually find yourself gravitating**—indoors or outdoors? For example, malls, offices, parks, farms—whatever is your preferred environment can help you clarify your vocation.

Many retirees, blessed with God's gifts of time, good health, and talent have no trouble re-investing themselves in a new vocation. Others like myself might struggle in this regard. They might be busy, but have no vocation!

The other day I met an obviously older fellow in a coffee shop. As he quickly folded the morning paper he had just finished ravishing, he gulped the last of his coffee and headed for the door, "What's the hurry," I asked. "I don't know what I have to do today, but I know I'm late,"

he answered. It occurred to me that if I had pressed him that he would have told me his vocation without reservation.



Henry David Thoreau wrote in *Walden*, "Renew thyself completely each day; then do it again, and again, and forever again." He didn't mean this as a challenge for retirees, although it seems especially applicable. Renewal is the essence of a vocation. Unrelated, Thoreau also suggested that, "All memorable events... transpire in the

"...we should all have a vocation, whether we are working or retired or otherwise."

morning time and in a morning atmosphere." In this regard, I can attest that morning Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays fits well with retirement and living a new vocation.

By Patti Simmons, School Librarian

Oh! the Places You Will Go

“Reading stimulates the development of the brain, language, and a closer emotional relationship with a child,” therefore, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) **“strongly recommends**

seemingly simple story was actually a beautiful lesson in courage, faith, and hope. This is just one example of how reading has served not only as a wonderful way for our family to spend quality time together, but also an opportunity for our greater learning and growth.



As the librarian at St. Dominic I am able to help facilitate the growth of students through reading. For example, students are exposed to many different types of literature by introducing them to Caldecott and Newberry Medal and Honor books. Students are exposed to new ideas and

reading to children every day, starting after they are born.” The sentiment of the AAP closely mirrors my own beliefs about the importance of reading in childhood. One of the reasons I was excited to become a school librarian is that it allows me to share my love for reading with the students at St. Dominic. I have always valued the time my family reads together. I started reading to my own children when they were babies and we continue to read together every night. I feel that it is important to read everyday and reading should be fun, not a chore. It is also helpful for children to see their parents reading.

experiences using children’s literature. Students learn about different authors. They learn the difference between fiction and nonfiction and how books are arranged in the library. Students use the computer to look up books and take Accelerated Reader quizzes. This year I have started using the



SMARTBOARD in the library to teach library skills. Students also have time to read quietly after selecting their books.

I believe reading provides children with a unique opportunity for personal growth while engaging in both a fun and educational activity. **For instance, the “Polar Express”** by Chris Van Allsburg is a special book to our family. Initially, my children just enjoyed reading the exciting story filled with the love of Christmas, trains, and friends. As they grew older and with repeated readings, however, we began to appreciate that this

Volunteers have been very helpful in the library. Many parents help throughout the year in the library by checking out books, re-shelving books and covering new books. Every Tuesday, parish member, Mona Hlsany helps with various jobs in the school library. To incorporate other potential library volunteers we are in the process of developing a **“Friends of the Library”** program. Some possible ideas



Name: Patti Simmons

Teaching at St. Dominic since: 2009

Years Teaching/Experience: 1st and 4th grade teacher at St. Catherine’s in Milwaukee 1995-2000 and 2nd grade teacher at Holy Angels School in West Bend 2000-2002

Degrees and Advanced Training: B.A. in Elementary Education with a concentration in Reading from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA—Minor in Psychology

Philosophy: I believe it is important to provide students with many opportunities to read. I think it is important that students are introduced to a variety of reading materials. I enjoy introducing new books to children and teaching them about different authors and illustrators. I believe reading should be fun and something that should be done everyday. I would like to provide students with an environment in which they will develop a lifelong love of reading.

Would you like to become a **“Friend of the Library”**? Contact Patti at 262.783.7565 Ext. 279

for this group are organizing an author/illustrator visit and helping with other various jobs in the library.

Most children have read Dr. Seuss and many parents remember reading his books as a child. I think his words are the best at explaining the importance of reading for the growth of children. **“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you’ll go.”**

By Ethel Cahill, Parishioner

In Giving You Receive

As a member of St. Dominic Parish for the past ten years, I feel very blessed to be able to participate in various ministries. I am very grateful to be a member of the lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Adult & Family Ministry and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) teams. I love being involved in these groups because I believe that in GIVING you truly RECEIVE.

I gained a greater understanding of this gift as an outcome of my visit to Ecuador as part of a Minga or parish mission trip in November 2007. The week that I spent there, along with six other team members, allowed me to witness a level of poverty that I have never known from living in the United States. We helped build a home for a woman and her family. It was an extraordinary experience.

The most memorable part of the trip took place on the last day. The woman, whom we were helping, knelt on the hard rocky ground and thanked us for building her home. I will never forget her face and the sincere tears of appreciation that she extended to us.

Of all the activities that I am involved in, I treasure the most, being a member of the Inquiry and Breaking Open the Word teams for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The Inquiry team meets with the catechumens and candidates to share and teach our Catholic teachings as found in the Catechism. This two-way dialogue benefits both the team members and the candidates. Candidates come from so many different backgrounds and with so many good questions. It allows all of us to grow in our faith. From



The mission trip to Ecuador helped Ethel understand that in Giving you truly Receive. Ethel is involved in RCIA, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Adult & Family Ministry.



my participation, I realize that that my formational growth is a work in progress. It is a journey that will never be completed.

After the Inquiry stage, catechumens and candidates discern if they are ready to continue with the next stage of preparation to become Catholic. This next stage is Breaking Open the Word. During these weeks we reflect on the Sunday Gospel message in order to bring more meaning to scripture and discern how it applies to our daily lives.

The candidates share with us what they have witnessed at other **churches and what they've expressed** is the outstanding feeling that the Catholic Church is FORGIVING. The Catholic Church also provides a tradition and a reverence that is often missing elsewhere. The RCIA process concludes with the exhilarating experience of the catechumens and candidates being initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil by receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

To have your faith grow, volunteer, and you will receive more than you ever give.

Name: Ethel Cahill

Profile: Born and raised Catholic in Detroit, Michigan. Attended Catholic Schools; elementary through college.

Background: I feel very grateful that I was able to devote my professional life to education. My career took me to places such as Okinawa where I taught for the army as part of the Overseas Dependent Schools, Oklahoma where I taught for the Catholic Extension Society, and San Diego where I taught in the public school system.

I moved to Milwaukee in 1969 and was employed by the Milwaukee Public Schools as a teacher, reading specialist, supervisor and elementary principal until my retirement in **1999. Prior to moving to St. Dominic's I was actively involved in St. Margaret Mary Parish.**

I am single but very blessed by being the youngest of seven children; surrounded by siblings, nieces and nephews.

"Each day I thank God for all the wonderful gifts that He has given me."

By Dan Herda, Seek Christ Editor

Miracles

On September 5, 1998, 4600 miles north of Calcutta, Monica Besra, a 30 year old Bengali woman, was diagnosed with a cancerous stomach tumor. Doctors attempted a variety of procedures to reduce the tumor, but the cancer persisted.

With hope fading and time running out, two nuns from India's Missionaries of Charity stepped in. They taped a small, oval medallion to Besra's stomach—a medallion that bore one simple image: the founder of their charity, Mother Teresa. Months later, the tumor was gone. This incident was recognized by the Vatican as a miracle, paving the way for Mother Teresa's beatification, a major step toward sainthood.



Do you believe in miracles? While we may not experience cures for cancer or water turned into wine, we all encounter miracles every day in our lives.

- According to USA Today, there are 11,000 babies born in the US each day.
- Since 1977, New York Presbyterian Hospital has performed over 1700 heart transplants, a record for any US Medical Center.
- After Hurricane Katrina, over \$2.6 billion was raised in private donations for victim support—\$1.8 billion went directly to the Red Cross.
- **Each day, hundreds gather at the ocean shore in Key Largo, Florida...simply to watch the sun set.**

What are the miracles in your life?

God, help me to not only discover the miracles in my life, but to be a miracle to someone in need.

Bringing the Family Together

The Dinner Table

By Dan Herda, Seek Christ Editor

Do You Talk About God?



Children are filled with questions...and they're not afraid to ask them. What does God look like?" Where do we go when we die? Does God hear my prayers?

When your child comes to you and asks you questions about God, are you ready to answer them? Talking to children about God can have a profound impact on their sense of who they are and how they fit into the world. It sets the foundation for the building blocks of their life to come.

So, are you ready to talk about it? Here are a few tips.

1. Relate God to Things in Everyday Life. Celebrate how the world is filled with God's concern and love. Children can relate to Mom and Dad, and Grandpa and Grandma. Make sure God is mentioned in the same language—use terms like love and protection.
2. **Don't be Defensive. Children question and challenge ideas. This is a sign that their minds are open and they're attempting to form their own beliefs and personality. When we're defensive, it sends a message that we may be insecure in discussing this topic. Engage in a dialogue, look for answers together.**
3. Tell Stories. Children love stories—they love the drama and the characters. Look for books that relate the Bible **Stories in children's languages and images. This will help them grow and understand who God is.**
4. Learn Good Answers. **Be thoughtful in how you answer their questions. For example, "Why can't I see God?" While this isn't an easy answer for any of us, we have no problem accepting that the wind exists without any of us ever seeing it. We only see evidence of what the wind can do. We are that evidence when it comes to God.** Share examples that children can relate to.