

LIFE TEEN

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Incarcate Word's LIFE TEEN began to grow as teenagers invited their friends to participate, and families continued to pray to the Holy Spirit to flow through the leadership. Every Wednesday night, teens gathered together to pray for each other, and the bonds of faith began to build. Over the next three years, the ministry grew tremendously, and more and more adults answered the call to lead teens closer to Christ. The "LUKE 18 Retreat," which ministers to over a hundred 7th and 8th graders each year, was adopted immediately.

In 1997, Incarnate Word's LIFE TEEN group began hosting a large youth rally, INSPIRATION, to bring teenagers from all over the Archdiocese to celebrate Mass and their faith. Now these youth rallies take place each year all across the country.

The Holy Father's visit

In 1999, the LIFE TEEN ministry at Incarnate Word exploded as the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, came to St. Louis. Incarnate Word hosted a huge youth rally the weekend before the visit and sat 400 strong in the front row of the Kiel Center to welcome the Pope to St. Louis at the Papal Youth Rally.

Inspired by the words of the Holy Father that the time to live out our faith is NOW, the LIFE TEEN ministry at Incarnate Word took on the role as the National Hub Parish for LIFE TEEN. Through this role, the LIFE TEEN ministry began inspiring youth ministers, musicians, and priests from all over the country through training conferences on how to reach teenagers in their own parishes.

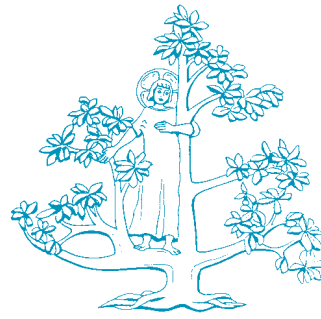
Communion with Christ

Over the last ten years, teens have been invited into a relationship with Jesus Christ through the Sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church at WorldYouth Day trips, CHRISTpower work camps, Steubenville Youth Conferences, and other activities. It has been the blood, sweat and tears of many volunteers, the prayers of many people, the vision of our parish, and the work of the Holy Spirit that brings us gratefully to this ten-year anniversary.

To the thousands of teenagers who have been a part of this ministry, the hundreds of adult volunteers, the support of the Incarnate Word parishioners, the leadership of the priests and, most importantly, the inspiration of Christ, we say thank you for ten great years of the LIFE TEEN ministry. We pray this is only the beginning.



Church of the Incarnate Word
13416 Olive Boulevard
Chesterfield, MO 63017



Coming to Incarnate Word!

A Christ Renews His Parish weekend is like no other.

A Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP - pronounced "Chirp") retreat is different from any other retreat. Parishioners share with one another ways that have given them meaning, hope and peace in their lives. Many participants feel the weekend experience has been among the most powerful of their lives. A CRHP weekend is the perfect way to establish a stronger bond with Jesus Christ. CRHP will give you time to pray, laugh, talk, listen and get away from your everyday life.

Who conducts the weekend?

The CRHP renewal team consists of men and women who have previously experienced this weekend. The presenters are not professional retreat masters. They are just like you. Since this is our first CRHP retreat we will be supported by the CRHP Retreat Committee from the St. Louis Archdiocese.

What happens at a CRHP weekend?

Each CRHP participant comes to the weekend at a different stage in his or her journey with Christ. The weekend takes about 32 hours of your time, early Saturday through Sunday afternoon. You will participate in a small group, witnessing and sharing with others on your spiritual journey. However, there will be no pressure on you to talk. You can say as much or as little as you wish. We will be sensitive to you and your needs. You are a guest and will be treated like one. You will also have the opportunity to share in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

When will CRHP take place?

Our first retreat weekend will be April 1-2 for men and April 22-

23 for women. In the fall, Incarnate Word will repeat the experience. So you have two chances to participate. The entire retreat will be held at Incarnate Word in the Lower Church Hall. To enroll, just call the Parish Office at (314) 576-5366.

Who may attend?

Any adult, 19 years of age and older, is invited. Although the weekend is based on Catholic belief, you do not have to be Catholic to participate and enjoy the rewards of becoming closer to Christ. You don't even have to be a regular churchgoer. The weekend might be just the opportunity you need to ease yourself back into active church participation. All you need is the desire to come and see.

What do I wear? Where do I sleep? What about meals?

Sleeping accommodations will be in the Lower Church Hall on airbeds. Please bring your pillow, blankets or a sleeping bag. We will make every effort to accommodate special needs. The entire weekend is very informal. Meals will be provided by members of Incarnate Word parish. Snacks will be supplied by all retreat participants and the retreat formation team. There will be plenty to eat!

What have others said about CRHP?

Here's what past participants have said about CRHP weekends:

- "A chance to rediscover your relationship with Christ."
- "It's the greatest gift I have ever given myself."
- "CRHP renewed my spirit and rekindled my faith."
- "A wonderful awakening to a new life in Christ."
- "I bear witness to the struggles in other lives and their journey to Christ."

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Getting to Know Father Sullivan



Father James Sullivan

Incarnate Word's Father Jim Sullivan is one of those lucky men, who not only has realized fulfillment in the priesthood, but has also acquired an intense satisfaction in his pastime - botany.

He grew up in the city in a house with no plants (that he and his brother had not yet trampled). When his family later moved to Richmond Heights, he discovered a yard filled with a variety of plants and a large cherry tree. This discovery triggered his life-long interest in botany.

Each week on his day off, he continues to devote his time to pursuing his love of nature. He regularly joins friends who share this same interest, and together they visit an interesting spot to observe and take notes.

A natural offshoot of botany is entomology, and Father added this topic, along the way, to his interests. Eventually, he developed files on leaf-eating insects. When asked for his contribution in the development of a book, he gladly shared his files on the subject, and Father was given proper credit as an author.

Choosing priesthood

Growing up, Father was a server in grade school and thought he would enjoy being a priest. Upon eighth grade graduation, he went directly to the seminary to prepare for his vocation.

As a young priest, he was assigned to several St. Louis area parishes. Later, he was appointed to two Missouri rural parishes, Holy Family Parish in Port Hudson and St. Gerald Parish in Gerald. While some may have been distressed to be sent to a rural area, Father was delighted to go. This was a new experience, and he welcomed the opportunity.

On his assignment to Incarnate Word, Father observes, "the people of Incarnate Word make this a wonderful parish." Needless to say, the people of Incarnate Word are delighted to have Father Sullivan as our Associate Pastor.

One Parish's Vision Leads Thousands to Christ

In 1994, Incarnate Word participated in a parish vision weekend. During this weekend, parishioners shared their concerns about the needs of the parish. The most urgent need identified was the need to develop a special ministry for the teenagers of the parish.

Through the collaborative work of parents, young adults, the Parish Council, the Pastor and Associate Pastor, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Incarnate Word began a bold investment in its teens. After hiring a youth minister, organizing young adults, assembling a musical group, and rallying parental support, LIFE TEEN began on Feb. 11, 1996, with a six p.m. Mass. LIFE Night followed the Mass, which gives teens an opportunity to learn more about Christ and the Catholic Church.

What is LIFE TEEN at Incarnate Word?

LIFE TEEN began in 1996 as a ministry of eight teenagers and three adults. This ministry grew into a national youth ministry training and resource center that gives parishes around the world hope in today's youth. The goal of the ministry is to create an environment where teenagers would be loved and accepted and challenged to live their faith in their homes and schools.

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The strength of a nation comes from the integrity of its homes.

You are what you are in the eyes of God and nothing more.
- St. Francis

Our Parish - Making a Difference

2005 - A Year to Remember

Incarnate Word Parish reached a milestone in 2005 - its 40th anniversary! To make 2005 a year Incarnate Word parishioners would long remember, the parish entertained suggestions for a special celebration. Many were received and what had started out as a single celebration commemorating the 40th anniversary soon blossomed into a year-long series of events.

40th anniversary dance

The kick-off event was the all-parish dinner dance at the Double Tree Hotel in January. A sold-out crowd enjoyed a delectable dinner and an evening of dancing, or just listening to good music. Better yet, everyone who attended got to meet many of the parishioners they see each week in church.

Five-day mission

In April, the Redemptorist Fathers presented a five-day mission at Incarnate Word that focused on the sacraments. A social in the lower parish hall followed each evening's presentation, and each social had its own theme with desserts and refreshments to match the mission topic, but the Thursday night social seemed to be everyone's favorite. On that night the mission theme was Reconciliation, so parishioners were appropriately treated to a variety of "sinful" treats, all concocted of chocolate.

New parish directory

The 40-year mark seemed an appropriate time to compile a new parish photo directory. This was a big project undertaken by the staff requiring many hours of planning and coordination. More than 700 parish families participated in this effort. The new directory is now available.

Other events

Throughout the year, many priests who served Incarnate Word in the past came back to say Mass and renew old acquaintances. In August, the official anniversary month of Incarnate Word's founding, Archbishop Raymond Burke came to celebrate Mass followed by a reception.

The final social event of the 40th anniversary celebration was a very successful Las Vegas Night held in the Kent Center in November.

This past Christmas, on our parish feast day, our former Pastor, Bishop Robert Hermann, returned to Incarnate Word to celebrate Midnight Mass.

Many parishioners came forward to help plan these and other events throughout the year. A heartfelt "thank you" goes to all who volunteered. Incarnate Word is truly blessed by the generosity and talent of its parish community.



From left: Mary Havens, John Blank, Emi Estrada, Pat Blank, Msgr. Dietz, Carol Mauer, Vince Estrada, and Ellen Saurez on Tribute Sunday, May 1.



Above, arriving at the 40th anniversary dinner dance: Dot and David Kersting, Lisa and Dino Granata, Salley and Stephen Verling, Bob and Patty Rowland, and Joseph and Laura Hofer. Below: Roxanne and Charlie Shikany, Stan and Joan Mengwasser, and Larry Hoepfer also arrive.



Three Incarnate Word Associate Pastors came to celebrate with our parishioners at the Parish Mission: Father Clark Maes, Father Tom Molini, and Father Joe Classen.



Three parishioners join Bishop Robert Hermann at the dinner dance: Connie Winter, Carole McClurken, and Rita Glastris.

Incarnate Word School - a Great Place for Your Child to Be!

Do you know what a fine school we have?

Incarnate Word Parish School is united in Christ and is one of our parish's many ministries. It is a visible faith community of priests, parish staff, teachers, students and parents, all striving to promote quality education for our children.

The school staff in partnership with the parents share the common mission to give our children the best we have both spiritually and academically. To do this, we need to be in prayerful dialogue with the Lord and in open dialogue with each other. The children of Incarnate Word are asked to bear witness to the faith by what they say and do in their everyday lives.

Values integrated into the total curriculum

Incarnate Word's goals of message, community, and service, based on Catholic-Christian values and traditions, are integrated into the total curriculum. The curriculum includes: religion; language arts (English, reading, spelling/vocabulary); science; mathematics; social studies; music; physical education; art; and computer sciences. Additional resources which support and supplement the curriculum include a gymnasium, expanded library facilities, two computer labs, an art room and a music room. The school is also blessed with a Learning Consultant, a Curriculum Director, a Director of Religious Education, and full-time kindergarten aides. On the average, our students score 36 points above the national average (in the top 14% nationally) on their standardized achievement tests.

All 434 students of Incarnate Word School are taught and guided by 25 educators, eight of whom have master's degrees. The school is accredited by the Missouri Chapter, National Federation of State Nonpublic School Accrediting Association.

Partnership with parents

The Church recognizes that parents are the first teachers of their children's faith and choose to share that sacred responsibility with Incarnate Word Parish School, trusting the teachers to do their best to help the children grow in faith and knowledge united in Christ.

Register NOW for the 2006-2007 school year!

To learn more about Incarnate Word School or to receive a personal tour, please contact Michael Welling, Principal, at 314-576-5366, extension 11. When you receive your personal tour, you will experience faith and knowledge united in Christ. You will discern why your family belongs at Incarnate Word School and how Incarnate Word supports *your* Catholic family values.

Incarnate Word Students Are Up to the Challenge

Three Students Compete in Toy Challenge, Win \$400



Students Gloria Maciorowski, Melissa Rey, and Faith Rolwes (left to right) smile with former astronaut Dr. Kathy Sullivan at Toy Challenge in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Resourceful Incarnate Word students Gloria Maciorowski, Melissa Rey, and Faith Rolwes invented a board game called "Twisted!" that teaches girls ages 9-13 about healthy eating and fitness. The girls spent six months researching and developing the game.

For their outstanding effort, the girls were invited to participate in the national Toy Challenge competition in Raleigh, North Carolina. They placed in the top 10 teams nationwide and were awarded \$400 for the result of their work. They also won a special award for Team Spirit.

The girls enjoyed an extra measure of recognition when they were featured in a story about their game on *Show Me St. Louis*.

The competition is held in commemoration of former astronaut Sally Ride to encourage girls to pursue careers in math and science.

A special "thank you" goes to Barbara Rey who acted as the team captain.



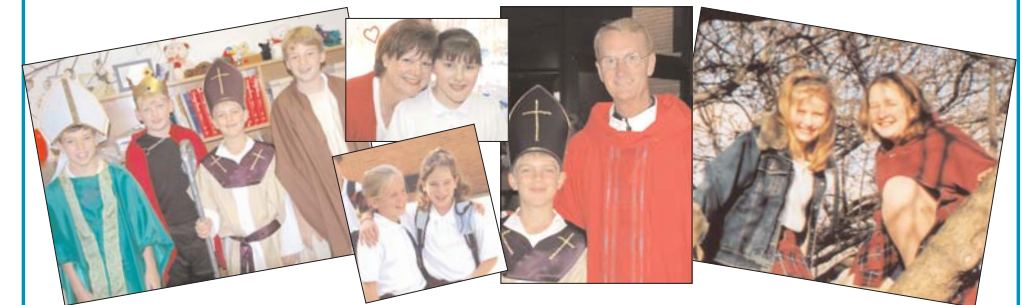
The cast of *Godspell*, Incarnate Word production.

Congratulations to 8th Grade Student Renee Winter and Teacher Mrs. Gillian!



Right: Mrs. Gillian and Renee Winter accept their prizes.

Below: The Expo van arrives at Incarnate Word filled with games, prizes, and gifts.



From left: Michael Baldetti, Brad Miller, Peter Hilboldt, and Andrew Graneto dressed as saints; (top) Mrs. Reed and daughter Katie; Julie Hilboldt and Erin Powell; Peter Hilboldt (as St. Timothy) and Father Vowels; Audrey Oldani and Maura Madinger.

Incarnate Word's upper grade teacher, Mrs. Chris Gillian, subscribes to *Writing*, a magazine dedicated to improving the writing skills of seventh- and eighth-grade students. One of the writing options, sponsored by Expo Markers, was a 100-word essay on "How my teacher makes learning fun in the classroom."

Eighth-grade student Renee Winter participated, and was one of four students who won the contest nationwide. *Renee won a Dell computer package for her sparkling, upbeat essay on Mrs. Gillian's teaching style.* Mrs. Gillian also emerged a winner. *Her prize? A free \$10,000 classroom makeover!*

The Expo Marker SUV came to school with displays, prizes and interactive games for our eighth-grade students. School principal Mr. Mike Welling called a special "Good News Assembly" to announce the news to the entire student body. Then the Expo representative met with Mrs. Gillian to begin plans for her classroom makeover. That same evening WB 11 Television News ran a feature on Renee and Mrs. Gillian at 9:00 p.m.

Incarnate Word School has had at least ten students who have been published on the *Writing* website. Congratulations to Renee, Mrs. Gillian, and all the students who, through the years, have been honored by *Writing* magazine.

Renee's prize-winning essay:

ATTENTION! Looking for an amazing teacher? Well look no farther! Her name is Mrs. Gillian! She teaches 160 kids each day, but always has skill and patience! Creativeness is the key to her teaching. We play games such as sparkle zap, and work on projects no other teacher would think of assigning! She understands how important our education is, and finds the balance between work, fun, and humor. We have foreign food festivals to study customs, and use "fake money" to invest in stocks, using the newspaper! I dare you to find a teacher as great as mine!

The true indicator of a man's character is how well he treats someone who can do nothing for him.