

Church of the Incarnate Word

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# Incarnate Word Spirit

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## Have Trouble Saying the Rosary?

*If you do, you're in good company. Even the great Carmelite Saint, Therese Lisieux, had trouble saying the Rosary. Only a year before her death, she wrote in her journal:*



"...the recitation of the Rosary is more difficult for me than the wearing of an instrument of penance. I feel I have said this so poorly! I force myself in vain to meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary; I don't succeed in fixing my mind on them.

"For a long time I was desolate about this lack of devotion which astonished me, for I love the Blessed Virgin so much that it should be easy for me to recite in her honor prayers which are so pleasing to her. Now I am less desolate; I think that the Queen of Heaven, since she is my MOTHER, must see my good will and she is satisfied with it."

- Story of a Soul



Recent Training Session

## Welcoming New Parishioners

Each year about 150 new families join Incarnate Word. To make sure these families feel at home in their new parish, a member of Incarnate Word's Welcoming Committee visits them shortly after they register. Members of this ministry provide that very important first impression of Incarnate Word. Besides a smile and an offer of friendship, they bring with them information about the parish, its many ministries, and a copy of this newsletter.

Learning the best way to receive new parishioners is part of the training members of this committee receive. Recently, new committee members Anne Bozarth, Rita Glastris, Yvonne Wesa, Eileen Anderson, and Cindy Essner gathered together for a training session with Sue Bollinger, Margie Eckert, and Mike Zuniga.

If you like to meet new people and have a talent for making them feel welcome, this ministry may be the right one for you. Find out more about the Welcoming Committee at [www.incarnate-word.org](http://www.incarnate-word.org). To be part of this committee, call Margie Eckert at 576-5366. She will be glad to hear from you.

## Meet the New Pastor

### Incarnate Word Welcomes Father Timothy Vowels

When the news of Father Vowels' appointment as the new Pastor of Incarnate Word was announced at Mass, whispers of recognition, approval, and joy were heard throughout the Church. Happily, Father Vowels was as glad to return to Incarnate Word as we were to have him as our new Pastor. Father says, "I was thrilled with the news. I certainly enjoyed my time at Incarnate Word before. The parishioners here are people of faith, ready to sacrifice for the Lord."



Father Vowels and Faithful Friend Casper

make sure all segments of the parish are well served."

Father Vowels was born in Charleston, Missouri, one of four sons. He came to Saint Louis to attend Saint Louis University. During his college years, he began to think about the possibility of becoming a priest. By the time he graduated, he was convinced that God's call to the priesthood might be more than just a possibility and, following graduation, went directly to Kenrick Seminary. Four years later, he was ordained.

He is grateful for the warm welcome he received from the parishioners. He sees that the parish is even more active than when he left in 1993. He describes becoming the new Pastor as "a wonderful situation to walk into. The enthusiasm here is impressive."

Father Vowels regards Incarnate Word as a large parish with very talented people who willingly share their time and talents. He added, "I want to make sure that the time and talents of Incarnate Word parishioners will be used in the best way possible."

When asked about his aspirations for the future, he responded: "I do not want to do anything too quickly without adequate time to assess where we are and what else needs to be done. With this information, I can go forward. Many possibilities exist at Incarnate Word because so much has been accomplished here already. My goal is to



Father Vowels is frequently seen around the parish in the company of his good friend, Casper, a Bichon Frise. Casper comes by his name quite honestly since Father adopted him on the Feast of the Epiphany. Naming him after one of the Three Kings seemed to be the right thing to do.

Father Vowels praised the staff at Incarnate Word. "They are very capable people," he says, "and a tremendous help. Because of their high level of service, I have more time to concentrate on just being a priest. In this day and age, that's somewhat of a luxury."

Father is looking forward to a long time at Incarnate Word. He told Archbishop Rigali and Bishop Hermann: "This is an energizing parish, and I am happy to be part of it."

## Job Search Ministry

### Helping Those in Search of Employment

Incarinate Word's new Job Search ministry assists people seeking employment. Bill Geis, Incarnate Word parishioner, founded this ministry in response to the increased number of layoffs in the St. Louis area. Recruiting, search and outplacement consulting are his specialties, and he gladly shares his expertise with those who attend Job Search meetings.

The focus of this ministry is on spirituality – how to seek God's help with the search and how to improve our relationship with God. Meetings also contain a healthy dose of job search mechanics, using a manual that Bill authored himself. It covers the various steps for a successful search including self-assessment, resume writing, networking, interviewing, negotiating offers, and keeping the job search moving forward. With these materials and Bill's instruction, those who attend Job Search meetings develop the skills necessary to conduct a successful job search.

While Bill helps with the mechanics of a job search, the greatest benefits during this stressful time come from God's comfort and direction. Bill enjoys helping people learn how to ask God for help in a job search. He says: "A job loss creates many problems, but it also creates many opportunities, including the opportunity to learn more about what God wants us to do with our lives."

The Job Search Ministry meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Watson Room. The Watson Room is in the lower Church hall through the middle door at the north end of the hall. Each meeting lasts between 60 and 90 minutes.

The meetings are open to all who are seeking employment or are facing imminent job loss, whether or not they are Incarnate Word parishioners, or even Catholic.

Anyone wanting to become part of this group should contact Bill at 314-878-0900 or [billgeis@eagle-rock-consulting.com](mailto:billgeis@eagle-rock-consulting.com), or just show up at a meeting. Bill will gladly assist everybody in their search for the right job.

## Celebrating 14 Years of Achievement

At a reception on August 18, Incarnate Word parishioners said good-bye to Father Bob Hermann as he moved on to accept the position of Vicar General for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. To the right are a few highlights of his many achievements during his 14 years of service to Incarnate Word.

In addition to the above, Father Hermann served as Dean of the Northwest Deanery and as a mentor for seminarians at Kenrick. He also supported many other activities and organizations within the Archdiocese.

We thank Father Hermann for all he has accomplished in the time he was here, and we wish him well in his new endeavors. We are also grateful that our beloved Pope John Paul II could see in Father Hermann what was apparent to all Incarnate Word parishioners – on December 12<sup>th</sup>, at the direction of the Holy Father, Father Hermann was ordained a bishop.



*An Early Parish Council Meeting*

### Incarinate Word School Wins First Place in Academic Olympiad

Congratulations to Incarnate Word school's fifth and sixth graders who earned top honors for Incarnate Word in the recent Academic Olympiad hosted by Visitation Academy. Incarnate Word competed against 18 other parish schools to win first place in each division. Winning both the fifth and the sixth grade divisions was a first in the history of the Academic Olympiad. Congratulations to these fifth and sixth graders for their weeks of preparation and willingness to participate:

- Initiated Incarnate Word's stewardship program
- Doubled the number of ministries
- Improved the effectiveness of the Finance and Administration Committee
- Strengthened the Parish Council
- Increased the salaries of Incarnate Word's staff to a living wage
- Increased enrollment in Incarnate Word school
- Established several new positions within the school and parish staff including Curriculum Director, Business Manager, and Director of Stewardship
- Organized adult faith formation
- Expanded the computer and technology lab at Incarnate Word School
- Promoted the development of Incarnate Word's Web site
- Initiated the parish building project and construction of the Adoration Chapel
- Established 24-hour adoration at Incarnate Word



*Dedication of the Adoration Chapel*

#### *Fifth Grade:*

Melanie Bulan  
Allison Dunn  
Katie Foerster  
Tommy Kaiser  
Melissa Maciorowski  
John Oliverio  
Michael Schonhoff  
Hannah Slabaugh  
Jeffrey Swaney  
Patrick Williams

#### *Sixth Grade:*

Allison Body  
Dane Kressig  
Jack Meara  
Thanh Nguyen  
Katie Reichenbach  
Nick Sabino  
Michelle Vincent  
Joey Wagner  
Lauren Weber  
Alicia Wherle

## Social Justice Ministry

### Responding to the Teachings of Christ

Incarinate Word's Social Justice ministry, one of two new ministries, was developed in response to Archbishop Rigali's recent request that every parish in the St. Louis area have a ministry devoted to social justice awareness. This ministry's goals are to educate Catholics on social justice issues and to encourage their advocacy by getting Catholics involved, not only at the parish level, but also in the community. Within the Archdiocese, 135 parishes are participating in this ministry to form a parish-based social justice network, a huge undertaking.

It is easy to confuse social justice with charity. The difference between them is that charity responds to our immediate needs, and social justice responds to our long-term needs. Charity provides funds, meals, and other necessities. Social justice promotes social change, examines the effects of injustice, and encourages action.

Catholic social justice has seven major themes:

- 1) The life and dignity of the human person
- 2) A call to family, community, and participation
- 3) Human rights and responsibilities
- 4) Hope for the poor and vulnerable
- 5) Dignity of work and the rights of workers
- 6) Solidarity
- 7) Care for God's creation

Social justice is nothing new or modern. Each one of these themes was founded on the teachings of Christ. Throughout His public life, He exhorted us to practice justice.

Parishioner Patti Bitter, a social worker, leads this ministry. Patti says, "Several parishioners have expressed an interest in working for social justice. This ministry will educate people about social justice and encourage community action." Look to the Sunday bulletin for more information about the Social Justice ministry. Patti will soon hold this ministry's first meeting and provide us with information on volunteer opportunities and how we can implement social justice themes in the community. To learn more about this ministry, call Patti at 636-207-6048.