



Blessings!

February 2012 - Introductory Issue

Our Inaugural Issue!

Pete Zuccaro, a Blessed Teresa parishioner, recently said our parish is growing so fast it sometimes seems difficult to get to know everyone - "...to put a face with a name and then, have a conversation...", as Pete puts it.

Pete's comment got members of the Parish Growth Committee thinking about what could be done to further aid in bonding our parish community together. We thought and thought. Then...

...SHA-ZAAAM!!! We were struck with the idea of a newsletter!

So it is, with enthusiasm, that

Bob Phelan: A Man of Blessings

Like "Charlie" on the popular '70's TV show, our parish has its team of angels, too! It's BToC's staff who Fr. Frank credits with keeping the spiritual ship called Blessed Teresa Parish moving on a steady, forward-in-faith course.

One of BToC's angels is Bob Phelan, our Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation. He's a gentleman who knows first-hand, the meaning of living in, and acting from, one's heart. Proud of his Irish/Polish Catholic roots, he's the product of a seminary education and a veteran of U.S. military service. During his career, he spent 25-years in the Bellevue police department until an injury forced his early retirement.

Bob has seen the good, the bad and the truly ugly in life. Like many, others, Bob experienced a rigorous test of his faith. He says his wife, Joylyn, and her unwavering faith in God, kept a holy ember alive within him during a time when human tragedies witnessed on a daily basis during his police work did a good job diminishing his faith.

we welcome you to *Blessings!*, the newsletter of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish.

Fr. Frank has given the newsletter his blessing and we're eager to launch the publication with this abridged, introductory issue.

The purpose of "*Blessings!*" is to bond parishioners with one another through articles, parishioner interviews and news of various parish activities and ministries.

We're working towards informative columns and fea-

ture stories including "Celebrations", a calendar of announcements such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, births, and more.

Among proposed features for future issues is a LifeTeen column written by student leaders to make sure news and views of this vital ministry are covered.

The *Blessings!* team looks forward to the newsletter's growth in content, scope and meaning.

Till next issue, we bid you Christ's peace, and well. . . ~*Blessings!*

Bob knows first-hand how God grabs our attention in the strangest of ways especially when we've imposed a distance between us and our Heavenly Father.

One day in 1989, while grocery shopping with his young son, Bob felt struck, quite literally he says, by an unmistakable call to return to the Church.

"Once I accepted His call, I realized I was to grow spiritually in unimaginable ways," he says.

A parishioner of St. Jude in Redmond at the time, Bob was soon asked to teach a religious education class. It was not something he sought, says Bob. It was something God arranged.

He taught 5th and 6th grade faith formation classes until 1996. As he tells it, during this time, he was falling in love all over again with God.

"I'm always astounded by the ways kids see God. I learned to look beyond the su-

perficial, to recognize and appreciate the many God-given talents sometimes hidden within my brothers and sisters, even the younger set."

One student was autistic and struggled to communicate verbally. With respect for the youngster, Bob decided class art projects would allow the child to give others in the class his perspective on how he saw God.

"This child's art was amazingly beautiful and spoke volumes about the redeeming love of Christ." The inspiring artwork hangs on Bob's office wall reminding him daily of the awesome gifts we are meant to give one another.

Bob administers the children's faith formation classes and the Edge and LifeTeen programs at BToC.

Next time you're at the parish office, stop by Bob's office and say "Hi!". You're pretty much guaranteed to leave his company with a smile on your face and incredibly blessed! *

The mission of **Blessings!** is to encourage close bonds between all members of our growing faith community through interviews of parishioners and coverage of news, events and blessings within our parish. •Future issues of **Blessings!** will be delivered quarterly by email. A small number of print editions will be available in the church narthex for parishioners who do not have access to email delivery. •Have a news tip, a question or a suggestion for a story? Send an email to: webberulrichmedia@comcast.net or call 425-830-9296. Please include your name and phone number along with details of your story idea. •**Blessings!** is an outreach effort of BToC's Parish Growth Committee.

Pro-Life Initiative Underway at Blessed Teresa

Blessed Teresa's Pro-Life Initiative was recently implemented to carry on the mission of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Her mission continues to be an inspiration to all in her support of life, especially the unborn, sick and dying. Fr. Frank Schuster continues to lead initiative members in our mission and work through prayer, education and action.

The Pro-Life Initiative began last July and is led by co-chairs Patrick Koeplin and Judith White.

The work of Initiative members is significant and includes: •implementation of "Pro-Life News", an information service for leading life issues; •dedication of BToC's Wednesday night Mass to Life; •weekly petitions at Mass with life message added using Word of Life from the US Catholic Bishops.

In addition: •the BToC bulletin now includes a weekly message of Life taken from Word of Life; •the Liturgical Pro-Life Guide has been sent to the Liturgical Commission for implementation; •a website domain has been secured and a website is under construction for Blessed Teresa parish pro-life news; •78 members of the Eastside Pro-Life (multi-parish) Council now receive BToC's *Pro-Life News*.

Led by committee chair, Candice Tapert, Initiative members participated in 40 Days for Life events from September 28 - November 6th.

The Initiative team is also working to implement the Gabriel Project at Blessed

Teresa. More information soon on the Gabriel Project!

Fr. Frank Schuster applauds the efforts of the Pro-Life Initiative members. He especially recognizes the following committee leaders for their work on particular campaigns: •40 Days for Life Committee Chair, Candice Tapert; •Homes for Unwed Mothers Committee Chair, Jim Sullivan; •Gabriel Project Chair, Patrick Koeplin.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta parishioners are invited to join the Initiative in prayer, education and action following the example of our church's patroness, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

Pro-Life Initiative's meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday evening. Meetings include Mass for Life at 6:00pm, Adoration from 7:00pm to 7:30pm, Study Program from 7:45pm to 8:30pm, followed by a business meeting, 8:30pm to 9:00pm. *

"At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we received, how much money we made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was naked and you clothed me; I was homeless and you took me in."

~Mother Teresa

Save the Date

Dedication of our parish's new church on the Woodinville-Duvall Road is scheduled for Sunday, March 25th. Mass will be celebrated at 4pm with a reception following Mass.

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The **amazing documentary series, *Catholicism***, produced by Word on Fire and hosted by Fr. Robert Barron, continues at BToC on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30, January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7 and 21; March 6, 13, 20.

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BToC Parish Retreat led by Fr. Jim Thompson is calendared for the evenings of February 27, 28, 29. More info? Check the weekly bulletin or www.blessedteresa.org.

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Easter Masses: •Holy Thursday, 4/5: 7:00pm—8:00pm; •Good Friday, 4/6: Stations of the Cross, 3:00pm and Passion of Our Lord, 7:00pm—8:00pm; •Easter Vigil Mass, 4/7, 9:00pm to midnight. •Easter Sunday Masses: 9:00am, 11:00am and 5:00pm.

Info' and updates on Masses and all the offerings of BToC are available in the weekly bulletin and online at www.blessedteresa.org. *

