

## Revamped Summer Festival

We may still be struggling to put together a string of nice weather, but thoughts of warm summer days and nights fill the parish as planning is in full swing for St. Veronica's Summer Festival.

Like many things around us these days, the festival too will reflect some changes. Due to new electrical codes being enforced, it is no longer possible to have the carnival midway under the electric power transmission lines as has been done for many years.

The result is a new emphasis for the Festival. The Committee is working hard to prepare *The St. Veronica Music Festival to be held July 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th, 2004.*

Two music tents will be featured. They'll be filled with a variety of great music. Because of the loss of the carnival rides and games, the committee will provide new attractions for all ages. A smaller area of the parish property along Whitnall Avenue will provide Kiddie rides. Other youth-oriented activity will take place in the Frederick Center. What won't change, is all the great food, games and fun that people have come to expect.

A mailing with more information, raffle tickets and a volunteer sign-up form will be out soon. The committee calls on all parishioners to sell those tickets, work a shift or two and join in this exciting event that not only helps our parish budget but also builds our parish spirit.

Think of the fun, the music, the good times with good people and of course, the warm summer days and nights!

### **Coming next month: Sr. Marie Estelle**

A profile of Sr. Marie Estelle, our long-time school principal who's retiring at the end of this school

## Financial Update

We continue to operate in the black for the current fiscal year. Expenses were \$1,236,740 through the end of February and income was \$1,267,429, creating a net income of \$30,626. Net income dropped from \$61,701 at the end of the previous month, primarily because we paid two large bills in addition to regular operating expenses. We paid \$16,752 for fire and casualty insurance premiums and \$6,955 of our Archdiocesan assessment. These two bills totaled \$23,707.

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, and the efforts by our staff to control expenses, our financial position is much improved from a year ago. At the end of last February we had a deficit of \$72,000 compared to net income of \$30,626 for the current year. This is an improvement of \$102,626.

*Mick McGavin-Trustee Treasurer St. Veronica*

### **Holy Week**

Palm Sunday (4/4) - 4:30, 8:30 + 10:30 Masses

Holy Thursday (4/8) Morning Prayer - 8:15am

Holy Thursday Mass - 7:00pm

Good Friday (4/9) Morning Prayer - 8:15am

Good Friday Service - 1:00pm

Soup and Bread Supper - 5pm

Stations of the Cross - 6:30pm

Holy Saturday (4/10) Morning Prayer - 8:15am

Blessing of Easter Food - Noon

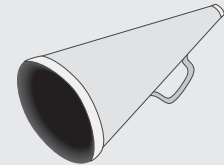
Easter Vigil - 8pm (no 4:30 Mass)

Easter Sunday (4/11) - 8:30 + 10:30am Masses

***If you have ideas for upcoming newsletters or would like to join our group, contact any member of the Communication Subcommittee: Tim Ewert, Anna Golembiewski, Marge Pulkownik, Fred Schmitz, Patrick Urban, Eileen Wernsman.***



St. Veronica's Voice  
April, 2004



St. Veronica Parish Community  
"Imaging Christ to the World"

## Protecting God's Children for Adults (VIRTUS)

You may have seen articles in the parish bulletin requesting that volunteers who work with children or youth, register to attend a VIRTUS session. You may have questions, especially, why do I have to attend? Here's some background.

In the 1990's, a risk-management group decided to create a program aimed at the child sexual abuse crisis in the United States. They interviewed experts in the field, victims, and perpetrators, looking for ways to combat this crime.

The awareness program they developed is called Protecting God's Children. It was completed just before the church abuse scandal became public. The American Catholic Bishops have mandated that all dioceses develop a program to deal with this issue. The Milwaukee Archdiocese and many others have turned to this program (often called VIRTUS) to increase awareness among adults.

It is not possible to identify and stop all perpetrators of abuse. They are easily hidden within our communities. The Protecting program is designed to help adults recognize the warning signs. The training sessions run between 2 1/2 and 3 hours. Sessions include 2 videos, completion of a workbook and time for questions and comments. These sessions help adults recognize the behaviors of those who might abuse children, and offer advice on how to report suspected abuse.

If you would like to attend a session, all registrations are done online. Go to <http://www.virtus.org> and click "I want to attend a session". The password is trust. If you do not have internet access or need assistance, call me (481-0777) and I will get you registered.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:  
YOU ARE NOT THE PROBLEM, BUT YOU CAN BE PART  
OF THE SOLUTION!**

*Karen Bushman-Director of Religious Education*



## Parishioner Profile

### Mary Wszalek

Her motto is: *If I see it, I do it.* That's perhaps why you'll find Mary Wszalek in any number of places around the parish. Greeting people as they arrive at Mass, planting flowers outside, cleaning the church, distributing Communion, helping students open their milk cartons...

Mary is one of St. Veronica's long-time parishioners. She and her husband Chet joined in 1958. She admits she always had an itch to be involved, but raising 6 children (the last three being triplets) understandably took most of her time. Still, Mary and Chet ran the parish fish fries and had their hands in other activities.

The only time in recent memory in which Mary was not a regular fixture at St. Veronica's, was when Chet suffered a series of strokes in the 1990s. They disabled him and forced him to live at South Shore Manor. Mary, who never learned to drive, walked there twice a day to care for her husband of 53 years, until he died. (She still returns there a few times a month to lead a prayer service) She still fondly recalls their whirlwind courtship after meeting on a blind date in her native Omaha. He was 8 years her senior, but "okay by my parents, because he was Polish and Catholic."



Mary says it took her a while to recover from her husband's death. But one fateful day, she visited the parish office to ask what she could do to help. While she was there, she noticed clumps of dust on the stairway...and the rest is history. She says she knew she

was destined to be a parish "housekeeper".

As many parishioners know however, she does so much more. And she gets other people involved and makes them feel at home at St. Veronica's.

Mary says she wants to give back, because God has blessed her with so much. Hopefully she knows she's one of God's blessings to us!



## School Update

Our new St. Thomas Aquinas Academy Advisory Committee hasn't had a dull moment since being formed a few weeks ago. There has been a deluge of meetings and important decisions (such as dress requirements for students) are in the percolating stage. Some parents want more answers before committing their children to the new cluster school, such as, who the teachers will be. The school has been interviewing those interested and should have its staff finalized by mid-April.

Julie Robinson has been hired as principal. She taught at St. Veronica's a few years back and has since been principal of Sacred Heart School. (She recently worked at our Donut Sunday). Ms. Robinson has promised to hire "the best of the best" when it comes to faculty.

As of this printing, between 300-400 students are enrolled. That's out of an expected 600+.

You can visit the school website at [www.thomasacquinasacademy.com](http://www.thomasacquinasacademy.com). It has the latest info about the school and enrollment forms. Let's keep the people involved in our prayers!