



Imaging Christ to the World

# Veronica Voice

*"If one is unable to connect with one's breath, how can he/she connect with God?"*

It was delightful to have had the opportunity to take my sabbatical in Japan. This was certainly a rich experience that will have lasting effects upon me. This short space will continue the "unpacking" of this experience for me and will hopefully offer something for you to ponder.

Japan is an amazing country with a beautiful culture and religious traditions intermingling and embracing one another despite their diversity. An early assumption was that the time would be spent reading and discovering Buddhism from a theoretical perspective. However, this was not the case. The insight from a gentleman that embraces both Buddhism and Catholicism amazed me. He said, "Unless I am able to connect with my breath, I cannot possibly connect with God."



## *"Heart Center"*

To understand this simple phrase, one needs to step out of the theoretical perspective, the "head center" and move inward to one's "heart center," to really understand the world around us. When we stay in our "head center" we want to find explanations to our deepest questions about life. What he was trying to reveal was that if we embrace and accept who we are and the present moment, we can be one with nature and God just like accepting our breath. People in the Buddhist temple and the School Sisters of Notre Dame explain that we do not always need to know the answer to "why." The insight was that we can embrace the movements of God without an explanation. However, we must be able to quiet our minds so that we can allow God to speak to us. Just let go of "thinking" so God can enter.

## *"Head Center"*

A second insight revolves around true conversation, or the lack thereof. We must deliberately practice the art of intense listening. It is important in conversation that the listener concentrates on the current moment, rather than race ahead to whatever he or she can add. This is especially true in our prayer life – our conversation with God.

## *The art of intense listening*

Just as Saul told Samuel to answer God by saying, "Here I am Lord. I am listening," - we must accept that our conversation is not a one-way street. We need to take time to turn inward so as to understand what glorifies God because that is truly the fulfillment of our prayers. If we are seeking only our own will, we will remain confused about how our life is to be lived but if we are ocused on receiving the knowledge God wishes for us, it will be given to us in God's time.

Finally, we are obsessed about time. We constantly complain that there is not enough to do all of the things we feel must be done. Yet, God gives each of us the time we need. Do we ask for God's guidance in determining what will bring about balance and wholeness in our lives and that of our families?

## *Not enough time!*

Beginning one's day with the Lord can help us to prioritize all of the activities of the day and can connect us with our "heart center."

*Rev. Mark Payne*

To read more about my sabbatical and the insights which captured my thoughts go to [www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org) and follow the bulletin links to my columns on May 5, 13, and 20.



# St. Veronica Parish Council

## "Imaging Christ to the World"

By Fred Schmitz

Newsletter Writer

The Parish Council has been in existence since 1975. Its membership comes from the laity of the parish and the priest(s) serving the parish. The Council provides leadership and direction for the parish in matters of personnel, finance and committees.

The priest(s) who serve the parish also sit on the council. At our parish there are twelve lay persons and one ex-officio member. Each member serves for a three year term, which may be followed by another term. While on the council, each member needs to be on a parish committee. These are service committees in the parish and they all have sub-committees. There is much effort given to make St. Veronica Parish operate as well as it does.

The Council's work allows the pastor to concentrate his efforts on those areas that he has been trained and devoted towards. When the council started in 1975, three priests served the parish. The council's role has grown since then, especially now with only Fr. Mark as our priest.

Any registered parishioner may serve as a councilor. Giving of your time to the Council will be interesting and challenging. The Council meets once a month and the committees usually meet monthly. Council members come from various backgrounds and come to serve the parish community.



*John Jeffers  
Chairperson*

John Jeffers is the Council chairperson along with a vice chairperson, secretary, vice secretary, trustee treasurer and trustee secretary. The Council year begins in July, when the new councilors join to replace those whose term has ended. These new councilors join in July and nine stay for another year. Thus, there is continuity on the council plus new members. Council leadership is selected beginning at the July meeting.

The ex-officio member of the council also serves on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC), bringing information to the Council from the Archdiocese. The Parish Directory has much information about the various committees that serve the parish. The weekly parish bulletin has the names of the Parish councilors listed.

Being a parish councilor will be rewarding and interesting. You will meet and get to know interesting people and become aware of parts of the parish life that you might not have known before. Giving of time and effort on the Parish Council is another way to serve and address the needs of the St. Veronica Parish community.

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### Committee/Contributors

Tom Tarkowski	Editor
Carla Jager	Publisher/Editor
Dave Mezwinski	Writer
Fred Schmitz	Writer
Eileen Wernsman	Writer
Jill Wahl	Writer
Sandy Anderson	STAA Writer

### St. Veronica Congregation

353 E. Norwich St.

Milwaukee, WI 53207

Phone: 414-482-2920

Website: [www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org)

E-mail: [parishoffice@saintveronica.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintveronica.org)



# Youth Interfaith Service Retreat

Over eighty youth from various faith communities in our area gathered on April 27-28 for the Youth Interfaith Service Retreat organized by the religious leaders of the Southeastern Milwaukee Clergy Association. Twenty-two of the youth who participated were members of St. Veronica and St. Paul's Congregations.



**By Jeffrey Montoya**  
*Youth Minister*



The youth and adult leaders gathered on Friday evening at St. Roman's Church to get to know each other with games and faith-sharing. The lock-in retreat included a sleep over for the men and boys at St. Roman's and the women and girls at the Islamic Center. On Saturday all regrouped at the Islamic Center for breakfast and departed from there to their various service sites.

Over thirty households were service sites and the youth completed tasks such as yard work, painting, and window washing. Southeast Interfaith helped identify the households that needed assistance.

After all the service work was done, all of the youth and several of the residents who were served gathered together at Unity Lutheran Church for a wonderful spaghetti dinner and to view video

### The youth and their grades from St. Veronica & St. Paul who participated were:

*Jimmy Cushinery (11), Lyndsey Hoke (11), Jared Hinsenkamp (10), Brendan Keyes (9), Leanna Kryszak (12), Katie Jenrick (11), Stephanie Larson (10), Stevie Manthei (9), Brandon McInnes (9), Andy Memmel (9), Matthew Memmel (11), Jessica Mlinar (9), Rachel Morgan (9), Aaron Passow (10), Ashley Reum (9), Alex Reum (11), Leah Shapiro (9), Jacklyn Spidell (11), Alana Stanislawski (11), Daniel Stachowiak (12), Peter Stanislawski (9), and Robert Walsh (9)*

### A very special thanks to the adult crew leaders from St. Veronica's who helped to make the event successful:

*Kelly Gerlach, Mick and Kris Lynch, and Laura Jenrick!*



### Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

#### 2nd Annual Church Crawl—Summer 2007

**Who:** Youth Presently in Grades 4 thru 8  
**When:** July 24, 25, 26 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**Meet:** Local parish: TBA  
**Cost:** \$20 for three afternoons, include all activity materials and snacks.  
**Organized by:** Child/youth Directors of St. Veronica, St. Augustine, St. Paul, Nativity of the Lord, Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart Parishes. For more information or questions call Chiara at 414-744-0808 or Karen at 414-481-0777.  
For a registration form and further information, visit the St. Veronica website at <http://www.saintveronica.org/news.htm>.



By **Mary Stallmann**  
*Principal*

## The Good News in Education

**M**any Catholic schools are small in size, typically in the 200-350 student range. The schools were founded by educators who wanted individualized attention for their students. This was a critical component in the educational philosophy of pioneering private Catholic schools. However, what makes smaller schools and smaller class sizes so appealing?

Smaller class sizes help the teacher to know his or her students on a more personal level. They can find out how a student learns and what makes him or her tick academically. Teachers can recognize their students' strengths and weaknesses and utilize different teaching styles, such as group work, labs, demonstrations, projects, and technology. These different teaching styles help students' progress faster through curriculum because teachers can realize when to spend more time on a topic and when students' have mastered a specific skill. With closer individualized attention to the student's academic progress, children will not "fall through the cracks."

Parents play a very important role in the education of their children. The smaller class sizes allow teachers to contact the parents on a daily basis through notes, e-mails, assignment notebooks and phone calls. These valuable communication tools inform parents about their child's progress and behavior.

Discipline problems tend to be less in frequency and severity because teachers are better able to manage their classes. Students develop closer relationships with their peers which decreases incidences of bullying and aggression. Students have closer relationships with teachers and staff. Studies have shown that these close relationships help to decrease the amount of vandalism at the school because students have a vested interest in their school and its building.

At our K4 – 8 grade school, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, we pride ourselves on our Catholic faith and Christian

community which acts locally and globally. Six Catholic parishes support our school: St. Veronica, St. Paul, St. Augustine, Immaculate Conception, Nativity of the Lord and Sacred Heart of Jesus. We aim to provide a challenging, creative, and caring atmosphere for our stu-

dents. We believe that each student is a unique individual respected for his or her differences in ability, interest, learning style, intelligence, and personality. Our class sizes range from 15 to 25 students per class. We offer a spiritually rich academic curriculum, along with specialty classes including: Spanish, Music, Art, Computer Technology, and Physical Education. The students participate in a strong athletic and extra-curricular program. We also have a weekly Mass for our Children, as well as a hot lunch program, and before and after school care.

### *We offer:*

- *K4 through Grade 8*
- *Individualized Attention*
- *Small Class Sizes*
- *Strong Athletic and Extra Curricular program*
- *Spiritually Rich Academic Curriculum*
- *Catholic Faith and a Christian Community*

Come for a visit and see "the good news in education"! St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is located in the former St. Veronica School building. Call to schedule an appointment at 414-744-1214 or check out the website:

[www.ThomasAquinasAcademy.com](http://www.ThomasAquinasAcademy.com).



A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."



### The kids of St. Veronica and St. Thomas Aquinas Academy at "Play"

Another soccer season has come to an end. The kindergarten through 8th grade teams were students in our school and religious education program. Please go to our website [www.thomasaquinasacademy.com/athletics.htm](http://www.thomasaquinasacademy.com/athletics.htm) for further information regarding our 2007-08 athletics program.

The school play, which has become an annual event presented Alice in Wonderland in April of this year. You may have had the opportunity to see Johnson Hall decorated floor to ceiling as Alice's Wonderland. If you have never seen the school plays, make a point of it next year. You will not be disappointed.

Our parish and school have some very talented kids, both on the field and on the stage.

**By Eileen Wernsman**  
*Newsletter Writer*



## Dance Your Way to a Healthy Lifestyle

The same situation recurs again and again, over and over, yet we never seem to find it within ourselves to address a common social stigma: the complete and total inability to dance. We often enjoy cheering on our favorite stars as they prance, dance, and glide their way across the dance floor, perhaps wondering all the time what it might feel like were we to skate the parquet pond. Would it really be possible? No, not me, I'm too awkward.

Well, my name is David Mezwinski and I, along with John Urban are both parishioners at St. Veronica, as well as ballroom dancers at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio. You may recognize John in Church as he flawlessly performs his duties as an usher during Mass. As dancers, we perform and participate in a variety of different steps including foxtrot, waltz, swing, rumba, tango, and salsa. We took our admiration for people like the television dancers a bit further, and simply began to



learn to dance, thereby developing a real admiration for the dance itself. If you should see John, ask him how many times he trots the fox. I can't speak for John, but I dance because it is aerobic and a real blast, but also because it is a useful skill that I can use all my life. "Dancing on a cloud" is almost a literal sensational translation, as it can be a way of imaging and sharing in the grace and beauty of God's creation.

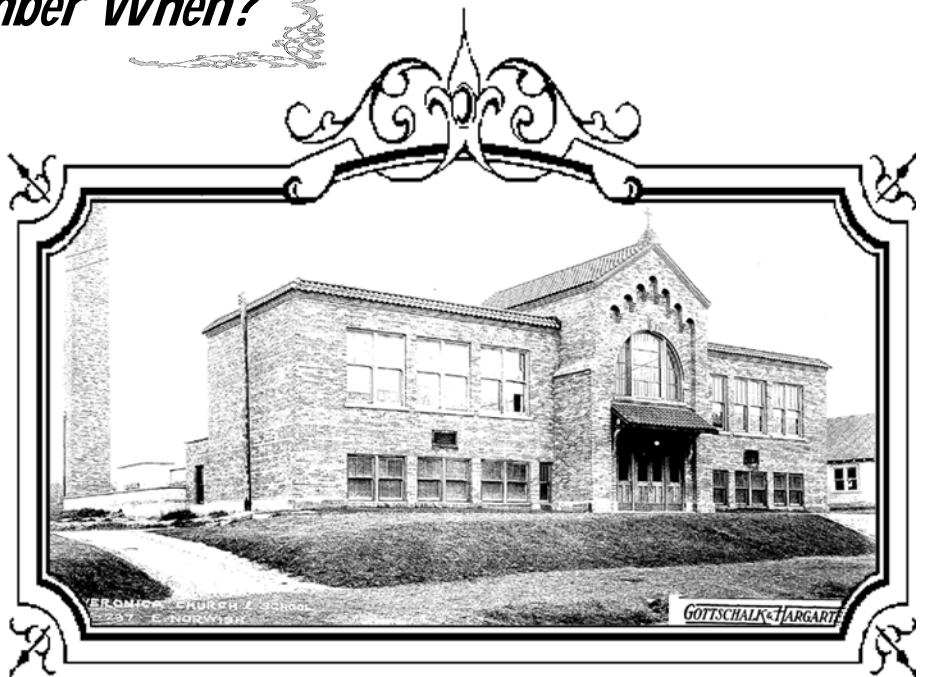
Should anyone be interested in trying a few steps, especially before the summer festival bands begin to perform those rockin' dance tunes, contact me through the parish office, I'll provide further information. Always remember the words of a wise martial artist, "All journeys, no matter how small or extensive, begin with a first step." The first one is the hardest, unless you are dancing!

**By David Mezwinski**  
Newsletter Writer

## Remember When?



*First Graduation Class 1927  
Ida Van Beck, Fr. Julius Wermuth-Pastor,  
Henry Bohmann, Andrew Greulich*



*The main building of St. Veronica Church and School as it appeared in 1931. It's exterior was remodeled to match the new school building in 1952, but a few original architectural features are still visible from the Norwich St. side, particularly the tile awning and the cornerstone to the right of the main entrance.*



## The New “Gathering Space”

**By Jill Wahl**

*Newsletter Writer*

The old play area at St Veronica was not being used for over two years because it was run down and considered to be a dangerous area. While the plans were being drawn up for the sidewalk renovations and the new parking lot, Father Mark and other parishioners suggested something be done about this old play area to utilize this unused space. Everyone involved with this project thought this was the perfect place for a new garden area. Father Mark indicated he may want to do some Masses outside in the garden. It was also suggested that it will open more space for the summer festival; it’s the perfect place for taking outdoor ceremonial pictures; and, it adds to the overall beauty of the grounds at St Veronica.

So as a result, Ron Dominski drew up the plans for this area. Ron, along with a large number of volunteers, started to put this plan into action last year. This phase of the project wasn’t completed until May 19th due to the complexity. The first thing they did was remove the old play area. Then they built a large retaining wall. They removed the old stone steps, and rebuilt them into a ramp that leads into the garden on the east side. They installed the irrigation system leading into the garden. Joel and Orville Lemke, and Mike Stahler installed piping through the old confessional to provide a waterline to the outside with additional piping underground to the garden. The new irrigation system is hooked up to a soaker hose;

***A tree is recognized by its fruit.  
- Matthew 12:33***



*The new “Gathering Space” was completed, May 19, 2007 with the installation of an underground sprinkling system.*



*Crew members: (left to right) Orville Lemke, Ron Dominski, Mike Stahler, Gregg Johnson and Matt Kirsch  
Crew members not in picture: Orville and Ron’s sons, Budnik, Caruso, Ergen, Pfohl, Zelinski and Zeller Families.*

7 small and 2 large sprinkler heads which automatically keeps the garden watered and looking beautiful. Other plumbing will provide water for the summer festival. Grass has been planted along the base of the retaining wall and within the garden area. Yellow and Red Barberry bushes are planted along the north wall, and nine Arborvitae are planted along the east wall so parishioners can use it as the backdrop for pictures. A stone walkway will lead into the garden area, and plans are being made to include a bench, and possibly a fountain and memorial.

**T**hank you to all the families who have volunteered their time to help this project move forward. All parishioners will benefit from your hard work for many years to come once this project is complete. But we are still in need of some creativity. Mary Wszalek is currently working on plans for adding perennials into this area, and she is asking for ideas from anyone who would like to help design the layout of flowers. If you would like to contribute your ideas, please contact Mary at 744-6292.

### **Upcoming Parish Outings**

#### **To sign up contact**

Monica Phillip at 414-744-1697

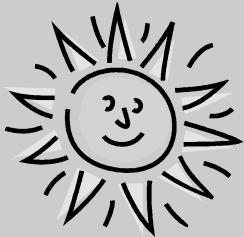
August 18—Arlington Park, IL—Horse Races  
November 17—Fort Atkinson—Fire Side Theater



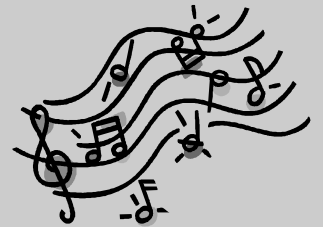
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**Imaging Christ To The World**  
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# 48th Annual Saint Veronica Parish Summer Music Festival



Thursday, July 19th: 5:00-10:30 pm • Friday, July 20th: 5:00-11:30 pm  
Saturday, July 21st: 4:00-11:30 pm • Sunday, July 22nd: 12:00-9:00 pm

Discounts on alcoholic beverages during happy hours:  
Thursday 5:00-10:30 pm • Sunday 12:00-3:00 pm

A special Polka Mass on Saturday, July 21st  
A special **POLKA MASS** will be held at 4:00 pm in the church on Saturday, July 21st.  
The Tom Brusky Band will be providing the music for this very special Polka Mass.

## Grand Prize Raffle

1st Prize \$2,000 Cash • 2nd Prize \$1,000 Cash • 3rd Prize \$500 Cash  
You need not be present to win. The drawing will take place on Sunday, July 22nd at 8:30 pm on the festival grounds. The raffle will close at 8:00 pm prior to drawing.

Visit our website for more information: [www.saintveronica.org](http://www.saintveronica.org)