



# HARK

*Announcing the Good News at St. Michael Parish*

Volume 1, Issue 1  
September 2009

Email:  
stmikes@stmikesparish.org

## Welcome Father Jerry

As the bells in the church tower rang at noon on June 3, 2009, Father Jeremiah McSweeney stepped out of his car and onto the property of St. Michael Parish as its new pastor. Father Jerry and Father Dan paused on the sidewalk to pray the Angelus as they began their ministry here together. Irish through and through, Father was born the oldest of five children in County Cork, Ireland. While his parents and both brothers are deceased, his two sisters still live in Ireland and his family has grown to include great-nephews Sean and Seamus. He



studied as a priest for this diocese at the encouragement of Father Robert E. Lee. Ordained in June 1972, Father Jerry has served our diocese for 37 years.

What makes Father Jerry tick? A look into the many boxes that he brought with him gives some clues. His calico cat Angel guards the clergy residence in friendly fashion. His golf clubs and autographed poster of

Sam Snead, countless musical selections, photographs, artwork, and books, books, books speak to his hobbies. Such an avid reader and collector of quotations!

He is a 'people person', interested in meeting his parishioners and learning their names and backgrounds. Please take the time to introduce yourself and your family to him the next time you see him!

## Father Dan Has His Ducks in a Row

Three rubber ducks – a coal mining duck, a celebrating duck, and a WVU duck - that's what Father Dan brought with him by way of introduction to the SMPS faculty retreat which he led at the start of the school year. In sharing part of his enormous collection, Fr. Dan's background as a born-and-bred Mountaineer (as well as his sense of humor) was evident. You will catch him on the sidelines of all the WVU



football away games this season.

But Father also has a serious side. His extended education includes Master's Degrees in Religious Formation and Spiritual

Direction and a Doctorate in Social Work and Health Care. He is always spiritually moved as he celebrates the Eucharist. Listen carefully to the gospel and his homily! You never know when he is going to quiz you.

Father Dan's family includes two sisters as well as nieces, nephews, and several cousins. He enjoys the company of his two kittens Lizzie and Andi (short for Andrea).

## My Journey by Sister Martha T. Gomez, OLC



Although born in Mexico, I joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in El Paso, Texas. As a Sister of

Our Lady of Charity, I try always to do God's Will.

I completed studies at Wheeling Jesuit University when the opportunity arose to serve at St Michael's. Like a Mexican jumping bean, I jumped at the opportunity. I began my ministry on Feb. 7, 2008. I believe God called me to serve you. It is a privilege to daily serve, to share gifts with, to grow with, and to build up the family of St. Michael's Parish, and I am grateful.

I come from a family of one brother and seven sisters, one deceased, and another who is also a Sister of Our Lady of Charity presently serving in Rome. Please pray for me as I continue to meet with and get to know more of you and your families. I welcome your presence in my life and thank you for welcoming someone who comes from the land of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



While it may take a village to raise a child, it takes teamwork to serve a parish. The Parish Staff has been instrumental in helping with the pastoral transition in our parish this summer. Weekly meetings have been times of team-building, as well as sharing information, vision, projects, and goals. Individuals on the staff share their gifts as they are responsible for particular areas of parish life. Donna Szymanski coordinates the operation of the parish office and communications. Karen Gaudet, a licensed CPA, responsibly oversees all parish and parish school finances. Sis Richard-

## Introducing the Parish Team

son pours her time and energy into directing our parish school as its principal. Wendy Hinerman vibrantly directs the Parish School of Religion as well as the parish sacramental programs for Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation. All youth programs of our parish enjoy the leadership of Jen Carter. Chad Carter enlivens all our liturgical celebrations with his excellent selection of vocal and instrumental music for our worship. Frank Corcoran is charged with the daunting task of being responsible for the care of our facilities.

Fr Jerry & Father Dan can be reached at their residence 304.243.5454, or through the parish office 304.242.1560.

Sister Martha - [smtgomez@verizon.net](mailto:smtgomez@verizon.net)  
304.242.1560 Ext 7  
Donna - [stmikes@stmikesparish.org](mailto:stmikes@stmikesparish.org)  
304.242.1560 Ext. 0  
Karen - [kgaudet@stmikesparish.org](mailto:kgaudet@stmikesparish.org)  
304.242.1560 Ext. 4  
Sis - [rchrdsn@stmikesparish.org](mailto:rchrdsn@stmikesparish.org)  
304.242.3966  
Wendy - [happyhinerman@comcast.net](mailto:happyhinerman@comcast.net)  
304.233.3979  
Jen - [JRandAJsMom@comcast.net](mailto:JRandAJsMom@comcast.net)  
304.243.0165  
Chad - [ccarter@stmikesparish.org](mailto:ccarter@stmikesparish.org)  
304.242.1560 Ext. 5  
Frank - [stmikes@stmikesparish.org](mailto:stmikes@stmikesparish.org)  
304.242.1560 Ext 0

Feel free to contact any of us if we can be of help to you!



Members of the Finance Council are consultative with the pastor in financial

matters, as well as decisions regarding maintenance and repair of parish properties and buildings. Jim Hurley serves as President of this group.

Members of the Finance Council are:

Brann Altmeyer

John Carenbauer

Jim Hurley, President

Bob Klug

Maureen McNabb

Phil Withum

Ex-Officio: Father Jerry McSweeney

Ex-Officio: Father Dan Pisano

Ex-Officio: Sis Richardson, Principal

Ex-Officio: Karen Gaudet, Finance Director

## Bringing It All Together

The Parish Pastoral Council assists the pastor in his leadership role of the parish. Council members foster unity and a sense of community as they promote, coordinate, and implement activities for the common good of the parish. Membership includes:

Diane Coleman

Dawn Dean

Margaret Erickson, Vice-President

Megan Fahey

Sarah Fultz

Tom Hoyt

Rob Krall

Richard Meisel

Richard Mullin

Craig O'Leary

Mike Rempe

Bethellen Roy

Roberta Snouffer, Secretary

Denny Snyder, President

Penny Stenger

Ex-Officio: Father Jerry McSweeney

Ex-Officio: Father Dan Pisano

Ex-Officio: Sister Martha Gomez

Ex-Officio: Jen Carter

Working with Mrs. Richardson, the principal of St. Michael Parish School, the School Advisory Board seeks to promote the excellent Catholic academic program provided by St. Michael Parish School.

Members of the School Board are:

Brann Altmeyer, Chairman

Chris Anthony

Julie Blust

John Carenbauer

Karen Gaudet, Treasurer

Victor Greco, Secretary

Tammy Miller, Parent Assoc. President

Donna Niggemyer

Michelle Patterson

Corey Pietranton

Ex-Officio: Father Jerry McSweeney

Ex-Officio: Father Dan Pisano

Ex-Officio: Sis Richardson, Principal



## Parish Picnic Participation: Priceless

Did you enjoy the day?

August 16th was filled with sunshine, praise, fellowship, and food! The parish gathered at Sonneborn Shelter at Wheeling Park for our second annual picnic. Beginning the event with the celebration of the Eucharist was only right considering the blessings we have all received. Parishioners and guests brought food to share as well as enjoying some grilled items which were provided. Games, face painting, music, and wonderful conversation added to the joy of the day. We look forward to seeing you again next year!



We often get confused when we experience declarative sentences. **Come Home**, for instance, is declarative and filled with simple ideas. A parent calls the child to come home. A sister calls a brother in California and says, "Come home! Our mother is dying, and you should be here." A grieving parent, who now lives alone, calls a child and says, "Come home." She is lonely. She wants to be with her child or children, and it might be the last time they are ever together again.

You have already seen the sign **Come Home** as you enter St. Michael Parish. It is a declarative sentence which means different things to different people. What do we mean to **come home**? How does that make me feel? Guilty? Welcome? Valued?

To **come home** is to enter into a place you haven't been for a long, long time. That might mean that you need to revisit your heart. On whom or on what do you rest your heart? Has your heart broken because of an illness, a loss? If so, revisit your heart and **come home** to it.

When was the last time you were really, really present at Mass? **Coming home** means to come *FULLY, ATTENTIVELY, AND WITH A PROMISE TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE* in all aspects of the Mass. If you've been coming to mass to pray your private prayers, to pray your rosary, to read bulletins, to come late and to leave early, you have not yet **come home**.

To **come home** is to know that you are a child of God. You have a responsibility to visit God, to speak with God, and to be with God not only in your home, but also in the place you call your parish.

**Coming home** means to rest...to rest in a place you trust...to hear Scripture proclaimed in a way that it articulates what is on your heart and in your soul. Being at home, we feel we are once again with family, with friends, with people in a community who are lovers of the God who loves us.

**Come Home** is also, and most importantly, meant to invite the unwanted, those who have left, and those we have "chased away" for whatever reason. Sometimes, we do unwittingly and unknowingly chase people away because we have hurt them with words or ideas or beliefs or prejudices that we weren't aware would chase them away.

It is time to **Come Home**. Come Home to your God. Come Home to your Parish. Come Home to those you care

about and those you don't really want to care about. **Just Come Home!**

We'll see you at home! Be sure to introduce yourselves to us!

**Father Jerry and Father Dan**

### **CENSUS SUNDAY** September 13

During all the masses that weekend, parishioners are asked to complete a census form (in lieu of a homily) at the weekend masses. **ALL** parishioners - those who have belonged to the parish 'forever' as well as newer members - will be asked to complete forms to provide us with current information on your households. Bring a pen!

For those who are away that weekend, census forms will be available at the main entrance of the church for the remaining Sundays in September. Please take one to complete and return it to the parish office via the mail, in person, or by placing it in the Sunday collection.

If we don't hear from you, we will be calling you.



**St. Michael Parish**  
**1225 National Road**  
**Wheeling, WV 26003**

**Return Service Requested**



### *A Prayer to Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael*

*Saint Michael,  
come with legions of Holy Angels  
to occupy and surround our homes,  
our property, and whatever place  
we may be.*



*Surround us with your heavenly protection,  
and drive far from us  
Satan and every evil spirit, interference,  
or influence.*

*Free us from every curse and bondage,  
along with their effects,  
we humbly pray.*



*May Saint Gabriel give us the strength of God,  
and Saint Raphael heal our woundedness.*

*All you Angels of God,  
under your heavenly Queen help us, defend us,  
and rescue us from the snares of Satan. Amen.*