



PILLAR COLUMN

...GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

PILLAR PILGRIMS RETURN

On Friday evening, October 28, our nineteen “Pillar pilgrims” returned from our Pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain. It was a ten day trip. We flew into Lisbon and then traveled to Fatima where we had the opportunity to celebrate mass in the basilica of Our Lady of Fatima. From there we spent the night in Busaco, Portugal and then traveled up the coast of Portugal through Porto and Coimbra to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. Santiago de Compostela is an ancient pilgrimage site at the tomb of St. James. There we were able to celebrate mass in the cathedral in a side chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Pillar. From there we traveled to Santillana de Mar near the Basque country of northern Spain and then through Burgos to Zaragoza. We were able to celebrate mass (in

English) in a side chapel of the Basilica and the next day in the chapel of the shrine itself were mass was celebrated in Spanish. From Zaragoza we went to Madrid for our final two days in Spain which included a tour of the medieval city of Toledo.

We covered a lot of territory in a short time. More than once as we boarded our bus every morning – the old song “On the Road Again” came to mind and we even attempted to sing it! There was a great spirit in our group of 19 pilgrims. There wasn’t a day that went by that we didn’t all our Pillar family in the rosary (on the bus) and at all our masses whether they were celebrated in a holy, famous basilica or shrine, or in a room in the hotel. I really felt that in a way our whole parish was with us – spiritually. I offered our mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar for our whole

parish and during the General Intercessions prayed for all the Parishioners of Our Lady of the Pillar parish, all our needs and intentions. The pilgrimage surely felt the prayerful support of our parishioners back home. It was a real communion of our parish community. The trip was rigorous. Dinner was late in the Spanish tradition and rising was early and we covered a lot of Portugal and Spain in a short time. But the blessings were great and I am sure extend to all our Parishioners. This blessing prayer of pilgrims after their return is extended to our whole parish:

Our pilgrimage has been a privileged period of grace given us by God. We who have come in trust to this holy place are moved with a new resolve to be renewed in heart. The sanctuaries



Father Tobin on the Pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain

we have visited are a sign of that house not built with hands, namely, the Body of Christ, in which we are the living stones built upon Christ, the cornerstone. As we return home, let us live up to the vocation God has given us; to be chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people God claims for His own, so that we may everywhere proclaim the goodness of Him who called us from darkness into His marvelous light.



**Father James M. Tobin SM
Pastor**

See pictures on page 5.

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VISIT WWW.OLPILLAR.COM FOR
AN UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

Pillar Pilgrims Return	1	Congratulations Father Tobin	3	Habitat for Humanity	6
The Year of the Eucharist Comes to a Close	2	Brother Kenneth Jung, SM	4	Prime Timers	7
Coming Home	2	Hymns & Songs	4	OLP School News	7
Welcome Father Oscar	3	Pilgrimage Pictures	5		
		Mike Hanewinkel, Youth Minister	6		

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He noted that he has seen a “confirmation of the practice of eucharistic devotion,” increased efforts to teach young people in Catholic schools and parish schools of religion about the Eucharist, and a concerted effort from priests to teach the faithful, through Sunday homilies, about the Eucharist.

The archbishop said that even though the Year of the Eucharist has come to a conclusion, Catholics should continue to make the Eucharist the focus of their worship.

“I think there are a lot of directions we see now that we want for the future in terms of promoting eucharistic adoration and a renewal of the sacred liturgy,” he said. “These will be ongoing tasks.”

The archbishop also pointed to several key documents Pope John Paul II published,

which he said were written to help the faithful understand the meaning of the year and to renew their commitment to the Eucharist.

These documents include:

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“Through the last documents of the pontificate of John Paul II, there’s been a lot of concrete direction with regard to the sacred liturgy, to ensure the proper respect for the Holy Eucharist and the dignity of the eucharistic celebration,” said Archbishop Burke.

“I think it was so providential that this was the last initiative of our late and beloved Pope John Paul II to the Church,” he said. “It represents in a wonderful way the whole legacy of his pontificate.”

Catholics in the archdiocese also saw the benefits of a six-week initiative, called “Stay With Us, Lord,” which was designed to help parishes highlight the importance of the Eucharist.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert J. Hermann, who oversaw the

initiative, said he hopes pastors will retain the packets of information sent to them and use the materials to continue to preach about the Eucharist. Bishop Hermann said Catholics need to continue to hear that in addition to being a meal, the Mass “is a sacrifice.” “I think our people need to hear how they need to enter that sacrifice when they attend Mass,” he said. “They need to be present at the foot of the Cross and enter into Christ’s dying. We need to die to our own sinfulness as we enter into this passion.”

Bishop Hermann credited priests such as Father Gregory Mikesch, pastor of St. Alban Roe Parish in Wildwood, who has taught children how to participate in eucharistic adoration. The prelate noted he continues to hear of other archdiocesan priests who strive to teach children about the Eucharist.

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Bishop Hermann also called on priests to continue to talk about the Eucharist in their homilies.

“I don’t think our people, by and large, understand the eucharistic prayers, because we have not explained them. If we did more of that in our homilies, they would have a deeper appreciation of entering into this marvelous mystery,” Bishop Hermann said.

(Reprinted from the St. Louis Review October 28, 2005)

COMING HOME



Father Wightman

While Father Tobin is guiding some of our parishioners on a tour of the shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar and other holy shrines of Europe, I have been asked to replace him as author of his weekly column.

Going back into the parish archives, I discovered that the last column I wrote as pastor was for the weekend of July 5-6, 1997. As my time was running out, I used my column to recall some of the history of our parish from the time it began on August 1, 1938 up to the time of my departure.

Over the years, each generation of parishioners has made significant contributions to the growth of the parish. In the early days, the focus was on the education of the children of the parish before other needs were attended to. Then the church and the rectory were built in the mid-fifties. The addition of new buildings continued to add to the facilities of Our Lady of the Pillar. Looking back, it’s hard to find any time when some project was not being planned or executed.

Returning after eight years, it is obvious that this generation is making its contribution in updating our buildings and grounds. They have never

looked better. The work that is presently being done on the pews and the floor of the church will highlight what has always been a beautiful place of worship.

All of these things are simply a reflection of the spirit and generosity of its parishioners. Parallel to the addition of new facilities has been the growth of the spiritual life of the parish. As I write this column, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is taking place in the rectory chapel as it does on each Wednesday. Retreats are being sponsored, some directed by members of the parish, and people meet regularly, for bible study and other faith centered activities. The parish also has increased its outreach programs beyond the things it has been doing for many years.

As I settle in and renew acquaintances, it is obvious that our parish is very much alive, in every sense of the word, and that it is still growing. I thank all of you who have made me feel very welcome. It really has been a "coming home" experience for me. When I left I couldn't even

imagine that I would have the good fortune of returning some day. I always believed that once a pastor completed his term of service, he should withdraw and allow his replacement to set his own tone and style of administration. He doesn't need the former pastor leaning over his shoulder or people who would make comparisons between the former and the present. That is why I was surprised when Fr. Tobin asked me if I was interested in returning as Associate Pastor. I gave it a little thought, but not too much, and happily agreed to the offer, as long as the powers who make appointments approved.

So here I am in my golden years happy to be a part of Our Lady of the Pillar again. I don't have the energy I once had and am still recovering from my knee replacement, but I will do what I can to contribute to the continuing growth of this wonderful parish.

**Father William Wightman, SM
Associate Pastor**

(Reprinted from the Parish Bulletin)

Welcome Father Oscar!

I have been at Our Lady of the Pillar for a little over a month. I am so thankful to my superiors for asking me to come to Our Lady of the Pillar. I am thankful to Fr. Tobin and Fr. Wightman for agreeing to be my mentors during this school year, but I am most especially thankful to you, the parishioners of Our Lady of the Pillar. You all have helped to make me feel so welcome. I have been truly impressed by the outreach efforts of the parish. I have been impressed with the many efforts to help the less fortunate in our city and nation. I have been impressed by our school. I have been amazed by the spiritual atmosphere, as well as the academic vigor, that I have observed.

The staff and school children have done a great job of preparing each of the school Masses at which I have presided. As a Marianist, I am so happy to see the wonderful



and caring atmosphere that Sister Therese Marie and all the faculty and staff provide for our children. I am humbled by the many, many parishioners, grandparents, and parents volunteering their time and talent to make the school successful.

Thank you so much for welcoming me, along with the other new parishioners and staff members. I invite you to join me in praying for our parish that we may be a faithful model of what it means to know, to love and to serve one another and our God.

**Father Oscar Vasquez, SM
Associate Pastor**

(Excerpted from the Parish Bulletin)

Congratulations Father Tobin!!

Our Lady of the Pillar parish was the setting for the grand occasion commemorating Reverend James M. Tobin's 50th Anniversary of Profession in the Society of Mary, September 8th. Fellow parishioners, along with family and friends of Father, gathered for a memorable celebration of the Eucharist. Afterward, everyone enjoyed cocktails, appetizers, and a marvelous dinner buffet in the Parish Life Center. A tribute showcasing Father Tobin's life was performed in word, song, and pictures (to the tune of the musical *Mame*). It was a wonderful evening, and brought much joy to all who attended.



Spotlight on Brother Kenneth Jung, S.M. His Religious Life has been Sweeter “Bee” Cause of It



Brother Ken, who celebrated his 60th jubilee in 2002, knew as a child that God was calling him to enter the religious life. Taught by the Marianists who impressed him because “they seemed to be happy people.” He was born in St. Louis and began his religious life in Wisconsin in 1941. Brother Ken has said “I think I have the greatest vocation.”

There are three “types” of Marianists – of which all are considered to be on, as he says “equal levels” – workers, teachers, and priests. Brother became a “working” Marianist when, at the request of his superior, he began cooking for the others on a coal oven. He has devoted much of his Marianist life to cooking and baking. My main work all my life was baking and cooking.

Beyond cooking and raising fruits and vegetables (delicious, by the way), Brother loves to tend to Italian honey bees. He often finds himself lifting heavy beehives (a single crate can weigh up to 50 lbs.) and he also doesn’t seem to mind donning a heavy and hot bee suit – because as he says the honey bees are happier in the sunshine – to extract the honeycombs from the hives. To make good honey, each hive should contain about 60,000 bees. He and fellow Marianist Brother Jim Eppy harvest honey from twenty hives they maintain in Gray Summit, Missouri. He received permission to house his bees there by a kind-hearted Mormon family.

Brother explains the process. “Worker” bees are constantly fanning air through a crack in the bottom of the hive which enables them to put the bee nectar into the hexagon-shaped cells. “How the bees make the six-sided cells is a miracle” he says. The bees also fan to keep the hive at an appropriate heat level (bees live in 90-degree temperatures) to maintain the livelihood of the queen. Queens live approximately 2 -3 years.

Last year, Brothers Ken and Jim extracted more than 2,000 pounds of honey from their hives. They hope to extract more this year. After the honey is extracted, wick candles are made from the wax caps, i.e., the wax that bees put on top of each hexagon to “cap” off the cells and seal the honey inside. “They say the bees recognize the beekeeper because his movements are slow and the way he handles the bees is gentle”, says Brother.

Brother Ken also uses a gentle approach in tending to his vast garden of sweet corn, carrots, yams, potatoes, egg plant, cabbage, asparagus, cucumbers, celery, lima beans, Swiss chard, rhubarb, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, and blueberries – along with a small orchard of fruit trees. When not tending his bees and his gardens, Brother Ken dabbles in oil painting and poetry (following is one example of his poetry). He is also involved in faith-sharing prayer groups.

Brother Ken resides at the Waldron community on the campus of Chaminade College Preparatory. To purchase Brother’s honey, contact him at 997-4336.

HYMNS & SONGS

In the Liturgy the church comes together and in the midst of the Lord and each other we have to sing with our neighbor. That requires a lot of us. It really does. It supposes that we are so love with the Lord that all inhibitions to sing in front of each other are vanished. It assumes we know the tune or even like it or that we can carry a tune or that it’s in a right and good range or key. It assumes that it will lead our minds to something within the liturgy and something beyond. Songs help us to lead our minds and souls to the “other.”

So, here we are every Sunday thrust in the midst of the assembly and asked to perform right in middle of an assembly that has to both listen and show outward signs

of participation. It performs for itself and is strengthened as it performs. Unrehearsed, unprepared, rushed and somewhat annoyed we pick up the hymnal and if we do our best at singing that is all the Lord requires from us. The presence of God in the assembly is the sign that it’s just plain alright to sing. After all, the saints of old and new sing his praises continually and uninterrupted in the best and worst of times. We just have to learn to sing about those bad times too right along with the good times.

Why various musical forms function within the liturgy is not an accident.

Firstly there is the Bible which is placed in the three-year Sunday Lectionary and the two-year Weekday Lec-

Gardening

*None of my flowers did I plant
Not even one of them, mind you!
Just walked along and God did grant
The blooms and blossoms to my view.*

*Though I told the Great Gardener
I would gladly tend his flowers,
Guessing for a moment never
Their variety and powers.*

*I tried to let my sunshine warm
And watering them with concern
Protecting them in sudden storm
Their temperaments I came to learn.*

*Oh what a blessing it to be
Involved in all this great beauty!
To talk with them in deep degree,
Listen as they sing back to me.*

*What mysteries of goodness share
The hue – the scent and unique worth,
With pain and joy and anxious care,
To cultivate my plot of earth.*

tionary. Secondly there is the structure of the Mass and its prayers. Both the Bible and the Mass are again ordered by the Liturgical Year with its cycles of feasts and season. Many of us take little notice that everything is not a hymn/song or acclamation or litany or a psalm. But knowing some things about the function of music types and forms will help us understand the role of music in Catholic worship. There are other more forms of liturgical music, ritual music, acclamations, psalmody are the main forms but for now let's concentrate on Hymns and Songs

Hymns and songs strangely enough were added later in the development of the Eucharistic liturgy. Few hymns were found in the Liber Usualis (usual book), which contains the proper and ordinary music settings for each feast and mass. The same can be said about the Breviary where the use of the hymn has been more or less constant from the implementation of the Divine Office. Most ecclesiastical documents stress ritual music forms like acclamations rather than songs and hymns for use in the liturgy. It is through popular piety that songs and hymns gain more prominence in the liturgy. Processional Chants often using Psalm texts at the beginning of mass and communion time are now mostly replaced by hymns and songs, some utilizing freely composed metered (rhythmic) and un-metered poetic texts rather than biblical texts or psalms. Some hymns/songs may be seen as a combination of either biblical texts or some other composed text.

When they function properly, hymns and songs bind together the prayer and catechism of the church. Using texts and quality melodies that are beautiful, these hymns and songs call to mind the plan of God throughout salvation history uniting us through countless ages to the song of the angels. They are vehicles of prayer. Hymns are chosen by liturgical season, from the readings of the day and from the corresponding or particular prayers found in the Sacramentary for the particular celebration of the day.

Lucien Deiss, both a liturgist and composer, said that liturgical and biblical texts are easier called to mind when they are sung. That is true because as singers in the assembly, we can be catechized through the singing of hymns and songs and minister to each other through singing. That is why the Bishops are gathering soon to set guidelines for hymns and songs as well as sung acclamations. They will be asking questions regarding the origins of our hymns and songs. Who composed them, is the text or lyrics a Christian prayer that properly reflects the churches theology, is the tune suitable or does it sound like a Frank Sinatra (not Frank's fault) or some top 40's tune? Where does it lead one's mind? One thing is for sure that music in Catholic Worship should lead the one's spirit, mind and body to the God who is among us and who is beyond.

"Pilgrimage in Pictures"



Portugal



Fatima Cathedral



St. James Cathedral



The Pilgrim



Our Lady of the Pillar



Bodin's Madrid

It's been six months since I started at Our Lady of the Pillar, and it has been an exciting six months. For about the first month, I hobbled around on crutches, getting to know the grounds, and getting to know the teens and families that make Pillar so special. Immediately after starting work I had to move quickly to get ready for a big summer.



Mike Hanewinkel,
Youth Minister

The first big task was getting a plan for the summer. I wanted to make sure that our youth would have options for them at Pillar so they could stave off boredom. I decided to keep the traditional Sunday night gatherings after Mass and the Wild Wednesdays, but something was missing. Tuesday nights became an opportunity to dive into scripture in our summer bible study. There were also two summertime trips.

The first trip came in June when eight of our high schoolers spent a week on a service trip. Entitled Christpower, the service trip was headquartered at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. From the seminary, teams of youth would go out to various sites in the St. Louis area. For everyone involved, it was a wonderful week. The service opportunities included cleaning up rundown neighborhoods and parks, serving at a soup kitchen, during ministry at city day camps, beautifying the seminary grounds, helping at nursing homes, and much more. Aside from a large poison ivy outbreak, everyone felt truly blessed to be laborers in the "vineyard", to bring Jesus to all those we touched, and to receive the love of God from those we served and from each other.

The next major trip was to the Steubenville conference in July. This trip was an opportunity to get away and praise God for a weekend. We had the privilege of hearing some wonderful speakers, excellent music ministers, and just getting to know each other better.

As a new Pillar employee, I wanted to keep the summer light-hearted and social, with a focus on building community. That gave me an opportunity to meet the teens and have fun with them. The best opportunity for summer fun was every Wednesday night, for our traditional Wild Wednesday gathering. Activities included a pool party, a movie night, a day at Six Flags, a night at the Mundy for Jesus Christ, Superstar, Shakespeare in the Park, a trip to Busch Stadium, and a night of bowling. Ask any teen who participated and they would surely have a fond memory of the activity and the fun we had together.

Bible study became a Tuesday night staple over the summer, and for six weeks we studied parts of the Word of God. Bible study has been my favorite activity to lead, and because of this, I continued it into the school year for one Wednesday every three weeks.

The present and future of our Youth Ministry program looks bright. We are in the midst of a great semester of mixing fun, fellowship, prayer, and catechesis. Our fall retreat is right upon us, which calls us to deepen our commitment to the Lord. The group will be vacationing to go skiing over Christmas break, and shuttling out to Washington, D.C. in late January to participate in the Pro-Life March. The friendships are budding, fundraising is going well, and most importantly, ministry is exciting.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The concept underlying Habitat for Humanity was born at Koinonia Farm, a small, interracial, Christian farming community founded in 1942 near Americus, Georgia, by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence Jordan. Its basis ... those in need of adequate shelter would work side by side with volunteers to build simple, decent houses.

The houses would be built with no profit added and no interest charged. Building would be financed by a revolving Fund for Humanity. Funds would come from new homeowner house payments, donations, no-interest loans provided by supporters, and money earned through fundraising activities.

The Koinonia Farm philosophy: What the poor need is not charity but capital, not case-workers, but co-workers. And what the rich need is a wise, honorable, and just way of divesting themselves of their overabundance. The Fund for Humanity will meet both of these needs. Money for the fund will come from shared gifts by those who feel they have more than they need and from non-interest bearing loans from those who cannot afford to make a gift but who do want to provide working capital for the disinherited. The fund will give away no money. It is not a handout.

In 1968, forty two half-acre homesites were laid out with four acres reserved as a community park and recreational area. Capital was donated from around the country. Homes were built and sold to families in need at



no profit and no interest. The basic model for Habitat for Humanity had begun.

Through the work of Habitat for Humanity, thousands of low income families have found new hope in the form of affordable housing. Churches, community groups, and others have joined together to successfully address a significant social problem ... decent housing for all.

Today, Habitat for Humanity International has built more than 175,000 houses, sheltering more than 900,000 people in more than 3,000 communities worldwide, becoming a true world leader in eradicating poverty housing.

Locally, Habitat for Humanity St. Louis is one of more than 1,800 worldwide affiliates bringing together families and communities in need with volunteers and resources to build decent, affordable housing. You, too, can help. If interested, please contact Heather Chaney or Mark Koors.

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Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic Church
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OLP Blood Drive

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

1:00 to 6:00 PM in the Lower Gym

Be part of a new generation of heroes.

Your donation saves lives!

Light of the World Parish Retreat

January 20 to 23, 2006

Spend this inspirational weekend
sharing and renewing your faith
with fellow parishioners!

Further details of both events
coming soon!

OLP SCHOOL NEWS

Other News

A special Mass was celebrated Sunday, October 16th, for the 5th grade students. Thanks to everyone who read, sang, participated in the Offertory and came together to celebrate. We had a wonderful group of students, siblings, and parents.

Science Fair projects: Students must present background information and research. Many have been collecting and sorting pages of research and keeping bibliography notes. Next steps are recording hypotheses and variables.

5th graders recently enjoyed the colorful, tall tale of "John Henry" and the classic poem "Casey at the Bat". 6th graders have been writing about grandparents and have begun Literature Unit 2. The 6th grade Math group has been working hard to build upon mental math shortcuts ... divisibility rules, prime factors, and reasonable estimation strategies.

Computer news: Pillar has acquired a new version of Type to Learn that students from 2nd through 8th grades are learning to use. It is quite different from previous versions with time lines and 'typer-wipers' and all sorts of challenges.

Pillar 3rd graders have begun using Internet Research in connection with their Native American studies. They will use their findings to create slideshows in Kid Pix. 4th graders have completed virtual adventures into the solar system via a web quest. 5th graders are learning MS Word formatting, copy, cut and paste, and save and save as. 6th graders are learning Apple Works spreadsheet and are amazed

at how quickly the program can sum a long list of numbers. 7th graders have completed several projects in learning how PageMaker tools function. 8th graders are discovering that following directions carefully, right down to the number of spaces between words and symbols, is very important as they create web pages using HTML.



Grandparents' and Special Persons' Mass



St. Francis Mass



Blessing of the Animals

Anyone with an article or suggestion for The Pillar Column, please contact Sydney Rodway at (314) 432-5388 or shrodway@charter.net. All submissions are sincerely appreciated.