



# From the Heart

A Newsletter • Published by Sacred Heart Parish • Main Street South, P.O. Box 686 • Southbury, CT 06488

## Covenant to Care 2000

People have been asking, “What’s new with Covenant to Care?” In order to answer that question, it’s important to review who we are and what we are all about. Simply put, Covenant to Care has been a ministry in Sacred Heart Church since 1989. It is a ministry that helps to meet the needs of children in the Greater Waterbury area.

Covenant to Care’s Adopt a Social Worker (AASW) program matches individual religious congregations with child protection social workers. The purpose of the match is to help meet the needs of abused, neglected and severely impoverished children in the local community. The social workers screen and identify areas of need that will not be met by other channels and convey these concerns to their faith communities.

Working with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) through the “Adopt a Social Worker” program, Sacred Heart’s Covenant to Care has supported a wide variety of programs to help these children. The parishioners of Sacred Heart have generously donated goods and over \$30,000

in cash to fund these projects during the past year. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, so many of you have opened your hearts. You have listened to our requests and given what was asked to help these children. You were twice as generous last year as you had been the year before.

Many of you have come forward to join us. We have been working hard, always guided by the Holy Spirit, to find new ways to help our social workers and to involve more parishioners. Currently, Sacred Heart has three Covenants. Two are with our social workers. Sandy Clark meets the special needs of teens who have graduated from foster care and have no other family. She is their “mom”, helping them to move to independent living situations, apply to school, open a bank account, or deal with illness. She shares their joys and helps them when they are discouraged. Our other social worker, Cindi Putney focuses on adoption and permanency programs. She spends a great deal of time finding homes

(Continued on page 2)

Vol. 11, No. 4  
November 2000

### Inside this issue:

*The Ultimate Praise*  
Page 3

*Crosswinds*  
Page 4

*Parish Council Members*  
Page 5

*Spotlight on Youth*  
Page 6

*Advent...*  
Page 7

*Father Asks*  
Page 8

*Ancient Holiday Rituals*  
Page 9

*Spotlight on Service*  
Page 9



## **Covenant to Care**

*(continued from cover)*

for children and preparing Life Books for them so that they will be able to have some information about their early years. We have also signed a Covenant with Chapman House, a major project under the auspices of Family Services of Greater Waterbury. Chapman House is a safe home that will give shelter to eight children at a time. They will stay at this facility for an average of 40 days until they are transitioned into foster care or are returned to their parents or relatives. A small percentage might require additional psychiatric help or an extended stay at the House. Of the \$30,000 collected at Sacred Heart, \$10,700 has gone to the Chapman House project.

The following is a list of the programs we have implemented.

### **Chapman House**

This project has by far been the largest undertaking by Covenant to Care. We have been working for the past year with Family Service of Greater Waterbury to bring this program to fruition. Our main focus was to furnish two kitchens within the House, including the main area and the professional “parents” quarters. In addition, we contributed over \$4,000 to the overall project. We also serve on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Chapman House.

### **Backpacks**

This year, over 70 backpacks were filled with school supplies. Forty were given to DCF and the remainder was given to Chapman House. Susan Ellis coordinates this program.

### **DCF Pantry**

A Subcommittee established by Susan Ellis collects and delivers food to the ongoing Pantry program, which furnishes emergency snacks, breakfast and drinks to those children awaiting

placement or those who visit DCF for meetings with parents and siblings. This need is constant. Often, the children have not eaten all day and are at the agency for several hours.

### **Christmas Gift Program**

This was one of the first programs initiated by Covenant to Care at Sacred Heart, and over 200 gifts were distributed to DCF and family Services of Greater Waterbury this year, meeting the needs of three social workers.

### **Easter Baskets**

More than 90 baskets were distributed to DCF and Family Services this year. Susan Ellis has managed this program since its inception.

### **Independent Living Placement Kits**

These kits are assembled for the teens cared for by our social worker, Sandy. They include a laundry basket filled with new towels and pillow, basic toiletries and household items, canned goods and a few first aid items.

### **Emergency Placement Kits**

Our sixth grade CCD classes established a tradition two years ago of assembling these kits during their Lenten mini-retreat. Our children, coming to the understanding that they must be Christ’s presence in the world, collect athletic bags filled with basic necessities for children who might be taken from their homes in emergency situations.

### **Life Books**

Children in foster care have life books prepared by their social workers. These books stay with them as they transition through the system. They include pictures, drawings, diaries and other mementos that provide a background for these children. We supply cameras, film, specialty paper and other material for these books.

### **Special Needs**

Throughout the year we have constant requests for emergency needs,

such as bedding, furniture, baby furnishings, food gift certificates and other items that are required for children removed from abusive situations. One example of a special need in 2000 was an air conditioner for a young child with a health problem, who would have gone into foster care without it.

In the past, we have called upon sewers, movers, carpenters, and other people of goodwill in our parish to help us with this important work. This year, ten 10<sup>th</sup> grade students have volunteered to join our ministry, as they prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and we look forward to working with them.

To answer the original question, a lot is “new” with Covenant to Care! Our programs and needs have grown four-fold in the past four years. This has enabled the Sacred Heart Covenant to Care program to reach literally hundreds of children in need each year. Our mission, with the support of our parishioners, is to continue to help these children who so desperately require assistance.

In the future we will continue to support Chapman House in their ongoing needs. This transition program is vital to the well being of these young children from two years to twelve years old, providing them with some stability to face their next challenge.

Due to the generosity of our parishioners, Sacred Heart received the “Unsung Heroes” Award this past June from the State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Your generosity is well-recognized among the social workers in this part of the state and our work continues to be successful due to all you. May our Lord bless you for all you have given!

*Joanne Gracy  
Ellen Baczeski*

# The Ultimate Praise

It is a sunny, warm and beautiful afternoon in Attleboro, Massachusetts. The date is Friday July 21 and 2,000 kids from all over the east coast are being greeted on their buses by the Young Apostles. Upon arrival at the Shrine Of LaSalette, youth ministers gather all of the meal bracelets and sign-in papers at the registration desk, and the Young Apostles, the “work crew” for the weekend, wishing to share their faith with other Catholic and non-Catholic teens, help unload duffel bags and sleeping bags from the buses. This is my first sight of Steubenville East 2000 as Denelle and I pull into the parking lot of the Shrine. There is a statue of Mary surrounded by candles lit by prayerful visitors directly in front of the remodeled Shrine. On a hill behind this is the skeleton of an incredible stone building, the remains of the Provincial House, which burned down on November 5, 1999. Off to one side is an outdoor chapel, a crucifix, and several statues including the scene in which Mary appeared to the two children in LaSalette, France. On the other side is a statue of Mary in the center of a giant set of rosary beads, and our meeting tent.

The first thing we do is go to find our tent. There are seven large tents for the girls to sleep in and three large tents for the boys. We get set up and then go exploring. Many kids are playing volleyball or basketball, some are checking out the vender selling snacks and ponchos (rain is in the forecast), and some are meeting in their groups. Most are just wandering around taking in the warm sunshine and the beautiful statues. Denelle and I join a game of volleyball and meet some teens from Massachusetts. My first impression is that everyone is so friendly and, I know God’s love is shining through each one of them.

Finally it is time for our first meeting as a group of 2,000 teens, along with the youth ministers, priests, and staff of Steubenville East gather to sing songs led by Martin Doman, a graduate of the Franciscan University at Steubenville, and his band. The music is all worship, but upbeat and fun. Everyone is clapping and singing along. Some of the larger groups get up and form conga lines in the aisles! All of the teens seem so excited to be here, and I know this is going to be an awesome weekend.

Although it is over two months since the event, I can still picture everything that happened that weekend, the faces of the teens, the speakers we heard, the sound of 2,000 teenage voices praising God. I still get overwhelmed when I remember how incredible it felt to be surrounded by kids my age, who like me want to be normal teens, yet fol-



low God’s commandments. I realized that I am not alone in my love for Christ.

We celebrated Mass three times that weekend and it was amazing that the teens out-numbered the adults. The first Mass was celebrated as a group; the next day the girls and the boys celebrated separately, and on the third day we again gathered as a group. The sacrament of Reconciliation was available during free time each day. All of the speakers, Father Tim Hepburn, Bob Rice, Caroline Gambale, Father Stan Fortuna, CFR (who has a Christian reggae and rap CD out), and Sister Sarah Burdick, SGL, were incredible! They all had such energy, and it was easy to tell that they loved speaking to teens about the Lord. They had “I Love Jesus” written all over them, as did the Young Apostles. The enthusiasm with which they shared the Word of God was contagious.

I learned that we can pray in any way we wish, by singing, speaking, listening to worship music, or even acting. On Saturday night, the Young Apostles acted out a prayer about coming to know that Jesus is forever. They presented a young girl who was hungry. A handsome boy brought her to a restaurant where they served her something sweet. She like it and wanted more, but soon realized that it was making her sick rather than filling her up. When the boy tried to force her to eat it, she got the green pudding all over her face, hands and white shirt. She was finally able to leave and a different boy found her and brought her to another café. Other teens immediately helped her clean up and gave her a new white shirt. The

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Crosswinds

**A**s we approach the holiday season, we find ourselves shifting into “over-drive.” Our self-imposed quest for the picture-perfect holiday for family and friends puts additional pressures on our overly hectic lives.

Perhaps you are already in search of the “just right” gift for that hard to please person, or the most appropriate greeting card to convey your feelings. You may be patting yourself on the back for having tagged the perfect tree in October. Long before the Thanksgiving turkey becomes soup, the race to complete the expected and perform the super human begins.

Simplify and celebrate! Now, that phrase has a familiar ring! Without ever re-evaluating our yearly, pursuit of the perfect holiday, we unconsciously jump onto the treadmill. After all, it’s expected! Not to do what we’ve always done would seem unforgivable even if things never actually turn out as we envision them. We somehow convince ourselves that this pursuit is important.

Unfortunately, we overlook, or perhaps prefer not to face what is most important...ourselves. It’s not the gifts, the trappings or the traditions that count most; it’s a consciousness of the essence of the holidays.

Let me put it in another way by using a story that reveals an important message:

Once upon a time there was a king who ruled a small kingdom. It wasn’t great; it had no significant resources or extraordinary people, but the king did possess a perfect diamond that had been in his family for generations. He kept it on display for everyone to see, and people came from everywhere to admire its beauty.

As word of the diamond spread to neighboring kingdoms, more and more people came to see it. Soon the people of the kingdom felt that the diamond was theirs; somehow it gave them a sense of pride, dignity, and self-worth. Then one day a soldier came to the king with the news that, although no one had touched the carefully guarded diamond, it was cracked. Enraged, the king ran to see for himself. Sure enough, there was a crack right

through the middle of it. Immediately he summoned all the jewelers of the land to examine it, and one after another they reported the bad news that the diamond was worthless, irredeemably flawed. Needless to say, the king and the people were crushed. Somehow they felt that they had lost everything, and life would never be the same again.

Then one day, an old man appeared who claimed to be a jeweler. He asked if he might see the diamond, and the king reluctantly granted his request. After examining it, he confidently told the king, “I can fix it. In fact, I can make it better than it was before.” The king was shocked and more than a little skeptical. The old man said, “Give me the jewel, and in a week’s time I will return it fixed.” Now the king was not about to let the stone out of his sight. Even though it was ruined, it was still a family heirloom, so he gave the old man a room, the tools, all the food and drink he needed, and he waited. In fact, the

whole kingdom waited.

At the end of the week the old man reappeared with the stone in his hand and presented it to the king who could not believe his eyes. It was magnificent. The old man had fixed it, and he had made it better than before! He had used the crack that ran through the middle of the stone as a stem and carved an intricate rose in full-bloom with leaves and thorns. The king was so overjoyed that he offered the old man half his kingdom in gratitude. “You have taken something beautiful and perfect and improved upon it.”

In front of everyone, the old man refused the king’s gracious gift, saying, “I didn’t do that at all. What I did was to take something flawed and cracked at its heart and turn it into something exquisite.”

We are like the people of the kingdom who are looking for something to give us a sense of self-worth and pride; we look to external things rather than within ourselves to find it. The old man in the story took a week to turn something imperfect into something spectacular. We are given four weeks during the Advent season to wait in anticipation like the people of the kingdom, but not while someone else does the work, but while we prepare our-



*(Continued on page 5)*

## Crosswinds

(continued from page 4)

selves for Christ. During our time of waiting we should be busily involved in prayer and reflection, preparing our souls to celebrate Christ in our lives. Only when this is the basis and direction of our holiday planning can we hope to take something that is flawed and cracked (our imperfect selves) and turn it into something beautiful. Perhaps we can never make Christmas perfect in the sense of tradition, the expectations of others, or the many trappings with which we become entangled. We can, however, recognize that God has given us what is most important and necessary for our lives...His love and forgiveness. Only through prayerful preparation can we bloom into something magnificent.

We are all diamonds in the rough. Time and God's artful grace make the difference!

*Father Flynn*

## The Ultimate Praise

(continued from page 3)

boy who had saved her, put on a white robe, and she saw that it was Jesus. He broke bread and she was healed. This conveyed a very powerful message to all of us, that no matter how sweet the world may seem, Jesus is the only one who can satisfy the hunger in our hearts. This prayer was followed by an adoration of the Eucharist and holy hour led by Father Ernie Corriveau, M.S. Some people around me were so overcome with emotion that they were crying or laughing, and some needed help leaving the tent. Leaders walked around with cups of water for people who felt faint. When the holy Eucharist in procession passed by me, the feeling of power it held was indescribable. It became apparent that Christ was present among us, and we could feel his love and hear him calling us to love him.

So much went on that weekend, between all the singing, meeting other teens, the workshops, and the lack of sleep (lights out at 12:30 AM, but showers opened at 5 AM), that when my mom asked me to tell her about it, I didn't know what to talk about first! The only way to explain everything to you is to say, if you are able to make it to a Steubenville Conference next summer, take advantage of it. It is an amazing experience, and I was truly blessed to be able to make the trip and get to know Denelle! I can tell you everything that happened minute-by-minute, but my words don't compare to the emotion, enthusiasm or love that was shared among the 2,000 teens at the Shrine of La-Salette! I hope to see you there next summer!

*Kathryn Ellis*



### Parish Council Members

(left to right) Lina Savard, Sharon Guck, Gary Napoli, Ray Thompson, Lori DePalma and her daughter Samantha, Paul LeMay, Dave Francke, and Chairperson Marge Griffin with daughter Grace. Missing from photo: Jim Grady, Tom Magrane, Jean Tillinghast, and Meg Walsh.

## Spotlight on Youth

Over the years Sacred Heart has been fortunate to have so many young people become involved in church activities. We have seen the faces of the regulars mature as new faces have come along to take their places. Graduates from the high school class of 2000 included several members who had served the Sacred Heart parish regularly. Although their lives are very busy now and some are far away, I was able to get in touch with a few of them to see where they are continuing their education and how they are adjusting to college life.

**Mark Focarile**, an extremely talented musician, was an all-state jazz pianist at Pomperaug High School. He could often be found accompanying the children's choir and occasionally helping Music Director John Dulina with the adult choir. Mark is now attending Western Connecticut State University, studying music education. He is also involved with the college jazz band and orchestra.

**Michael Wieners**, an altar server for several years, is now attending Drew University in New Jersey, where he is enjoying college life. Michael is studying biology which he finds very interesting and is playing soccer for the Drew University Rangers.

**Trisha and Jessica Breault**, former cross-bearers, are attending the University of Delaware, playing sports for the Fighting Blue Hens. Trisha is starting for the soccer team and loves her classes in fashion, Spanish, and orientation for athletes. Jessica is on the field hockey team and was Rookie of the Week for the American East Conference. She is majoring in art and is enjoying her

classes. Trisha recently joined the communications committee and wrote an article, which appeared in the Feb. 2000 issue of *From the Heart*, about young adults and their sacrifices for Lent.

**Michael Porrata** was an altar server for several years. He is now going to school at the University of Vermont, where he is involved in various musical events, and enjoying all Burlington has to offer.

**Robert Stephens** and his family have been members of Sacred Heart for eighteen years. Rob was an altar server from third grade until he became taller than Fr. Flynn! Now attending UConn, Rob loves music and brought his guitar and amplifiers to school with him. He is enjoying his physics and music classes a great deal.

**Diana Hellriegel**, a frequent reader at 7:30 mass, is now attending Sacred Heart University where she is vice-president of the hall council, a branch of the student government, in her dorm. Diana, who is majoring in psychology for education, is also enjoying her Spanish class.

**Josh Gravalec** was an altar server for several years. Now attending UConn, Josh is majoring in anthropology, taking pre-law classes and enjoying school quite a lot.

**Kevin Somok**, also an altar server for many years, is now attending the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Kevin graduated in the top 10 from Pomperaug High School and was involved in cross-country running. He will continue to run track at Notre Dame, competing with the team this winter.

**Joseph DiDominico**, now a history major at the Virginia Military Institute in Virginia, was

an altar server at Sacred Heart since third grade. At VMI, Joe belongs to the Army ROTC and plays trumpet with the regimental band.

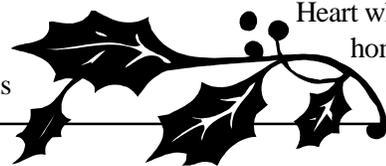
**Tara Tomas** has been a cross-bearer since ninth grade, most frequently at 7:30 mass. At Washington College in Maryland, she is playing fall and spring tennis for the Washington Shoremen. Tara's interest in politics was piqued last year when her class went to New Hampshire to meet the candidates and attend their rallies. She is currently really enjoying a seminar in Presidents, Congress and Policy in the New Millennium.

**Michael Cassidy** has played trumpet with the Sacred Heart orchestra, been an altar boy since third grade, and a reader since fifth grade. Michael, now attending Boston University, is involved in a community service group, doing children's theater. They entertain children at elementary schools and hospitals. Michael is taking a philosophy and ethics course that he really loves. Next year he will apply to Boston University's medical program.

**Heather Yanusas**, a reader for several years, is now attending the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts, where she is enjoying her psychology and art classes very much. Heather is playing field hockey for the Holy Cross Crusaders and is looking forward to becoming involved with several humanitarian projects, such as Habitat for Humanity.

To all these young members of the Sacred Heart family, best of luck in your future endeavors. We look forward to seeing you at Sacred

Heart while you are home for holi-



# Advent and Where We Came From

**A**dvent: The Jesuits taught me that it meant “arrival” or in a religious connotation, “the coming of Christ into the world.” Notice I am not writing about a beginning but rather an arriving. This distinction is important, as you will soon read.

On a recent wintry October Saturday morning, Judy and I sat together on one of the large couches located in the main reading room of the Marist College Library, which overlooks the Hudson River. For your information, Judy is employed in upper management at the library, thus I can advise you that I was visiting and not trespassing, and you are mistaken if you thought I was there to increase my knowledge through reading.

Christmas, I was musing out loud, will be unusual this year. Tommy and his new bride have moved to California where he will begin a career in screenwriting. Sean is in Boston joining the “young blood” which is filling the job markets for the various new web site opportunities. Paul is now an executive chef managing a successful 125-seat restaurant in the mountains of Pennsylvania and Lauren and her family have moved to New Jersey, in the middle of the Hunt Country to be exact, rebuilding an old house. My children are all so busy with their own lives, and yes, I was feeling very sorry for myself.

With a sigh, I said to no one in particular, “I think I am becoming an Irish Job.”

“Poor baby!” retorted Judy. “How fortunate that, now let me see, what did happen to Job? His children were killed. Were yours? Livestock? None? So they weren’t killed either, and as far as I know, you have not been visited by plagues. But you do have the same strong faith in God that Job had, so Dennis, you will survive.”

“Wait a minute, now. Have I ever told you that there are times my faith and trust have been challenged, and inevitably, on the very day when I really am going through a poor

pitiful me routine, the pastor would give a homily about trusting in His ways. An incredible coincidence, I don’t wonder. Why is it that you never have these problems?”

“Probably because I know better,” laughed Judy. A sanctimonious Judy does not exist in this world, so I was forced to laugh with her.

“Whatever,” I responded, realizing I would receive no sympathy and could expect none.

“What is important is that this is going to be the first Christmas without a big family and Advent feast,” I declared, changing the subject. “I am not enthused at all,” I was sounding pathetic and relished in it.

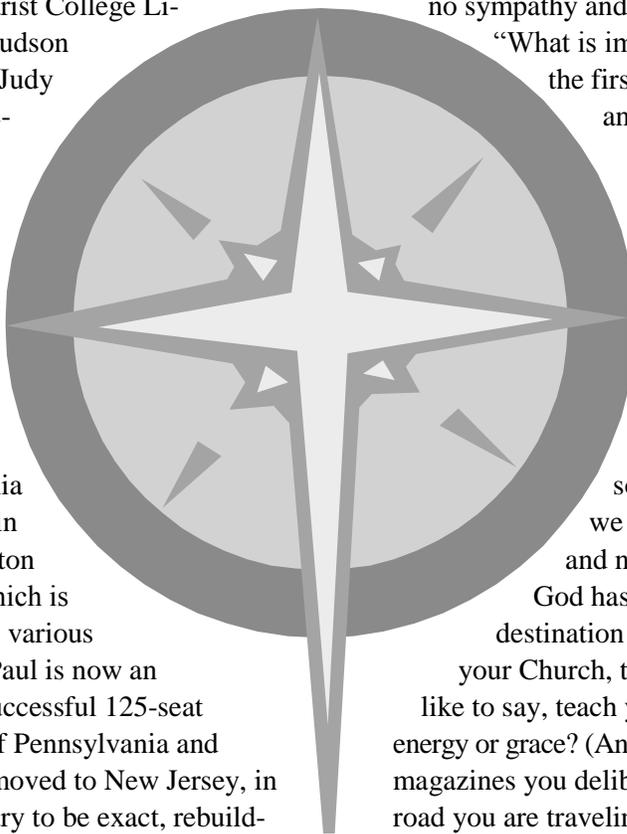
This time, the sigh came from Judy. “Let me tell you something,” said a most serious Judy; “Here’s an idea to which I know you have never given one modicum of consideration. In approaching the season of Advent, I think sometimes we dwell too much on the Advent part and not enough on the realization of how God has helped us to arrive at our present destination along our spiritual path. Does not your Church, the only true one of course, as you like to say, teach you that we are moved by divine energy or grace? (And yes, I do read some of the Catholic magazines you deliberately leave around). So whatever road you are traveling could not have happened without your acceptance and recognition of his grace.”

“I would say,” said Judy turning toward me, “that Advent may be more than just the coming of Christ, but also an appreciation of God’s power, don’t you think?” With my smile, I silently acknowledged this profound observation.

I took the hand of this lady and resumed looking out over the Hudson River.

Quite a woman, this spiritual Protestant, unnerving sometimes, but quite a woman.

*Dennis J. McLaughlin*



## Father Asks

Normally, in this brief space I answer a question posed by a parish member. Since there were no requests for clarification or theological interpretation for this issue, we will rename this column, "Father Asks."

During the Eucharistic prayer at Mass on Sunday, what were you thinking about? In other words, can you recall what was on your mind from the moment the presider invited all to "lift up your hearts" until you sang the Great Amen before the Our Father?

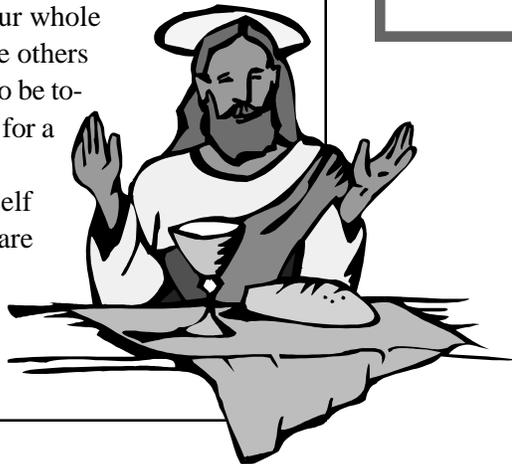
We Catholics call this the most holy time during the liturgy. But what does "holy" mean here, and how do you spend that holy time?

Most of us would probably admit to wandering off a bit. Yes, we sing the "Holy, Holy" pretty well, but sometimes we don't focus back until the Our Father. Where did we go? We're pretty good at getting on board for the song that begins the liturgy, and sometimes we give full attention to at least one of the readings and maybe even the homily, depending on who is giving it. But, what would you answer if someone tapped you on the shoulder during the Lord's Prayer and said, "Where were you during the last five minutes?"

This question is not the same as "What did the priest just do?" The crucial question is, after we said "yes" to the invitation to lift up our hearts, what exactly happened to those hearts? Did they stay lifted up?

Look at it this way. Is there any regular occurrence in your life that grabs and holds you completely? That's what is requested when we are told to lift up our hearts. We are not being told to just be quiet and attentive (that can happen at a good movie or concert). We are asked to lift up our hearts, give to God our whole selves in community with all the others around the altar. What is it like to be totally involved in some deed even for a few minutes?

Think about it and ask yourself that question the next time you are invited to lift up your heart. It's not just a saying; it is an invitation to real intimacy with God. The Eucharistic prayer is not



Mary had a little lamb,  
His fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
The Lamb was sure to go.  
He followed her to school each day,  
T'was even in the rule.  
It made the children laugh and play,  
To have a Lamb in school.  
And then the rules all changed one day,  
Illegal it became;  
To bring the Lamb of God to school,  
Or even speak His Name.  
Every day got worse and worse  
And days turned into years.  
Instead of hearing children laugh,  
We heard gun shots and tears.  
What must we do to stop the crime  
That's in our schools today?  
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,  
And teach our kids to pray!

*Unsigned From The Internet*

# Ancient Holiday Rituals

I have a difficult time  
with our modern versions  
of ancient holiday rituals.  
Somehow they have gone awry!

The pumpkins and stuffed dummies  
hanging about are not All Hallow's mass.  
Trick or treat, needles in the candy a  
poor substitute for a bit of scary fun!

And the turkey and the blessings  
of the groaning dinner table  
and the glut of TV football  
do not tell of the Pilgrims

final solution for the pesky  
Indians, administered with piety,  
of course. Ah, the benefits  
of enlightened western civilization.

And what of birthdays, I say?  
Learned scholars have postulated, by dint  
of much calculation and celestial observation,  
that "that bright star" shed its guiding

light on an April night of that momentous  
holy year. So how did we get Christmas  
in December? It seems that the stuff  
of legends needs only a fleeting acquaintance

with truth to ring for the ages. And would  
Christmas be complete without each store's  
Santa Claus' lap for pictures? Well, the outfit  
is colorful! "Ho, Ho, Ho." So I guess the Salvation

Army does have a musical point with their tinkling  
bells and tripod pot on every corner. Now cymbals  
and tambourines transmogrify and emerge  
as modern symbols of Ancient Modern Rituals!

*Al Savard*

## Spotlight on Service

### A True Steward

**B**ob Loiseau, who has joined Jean Brickey as one of the two trustees for our parish, is an example of stewardship in action.

Bob, a partner in the firm Sherman & Loiseau, C.P.A.s, and his wife, Bonnie, will be married 29 years this month. Bob has been a parishioner at Sacred Heart for 23 years. The Loiseaus raised two children in our parish: Matt, a biology teacher at Pomperaug High School, and Eileen, a marine biology researcher at Booth Bay Harbor.

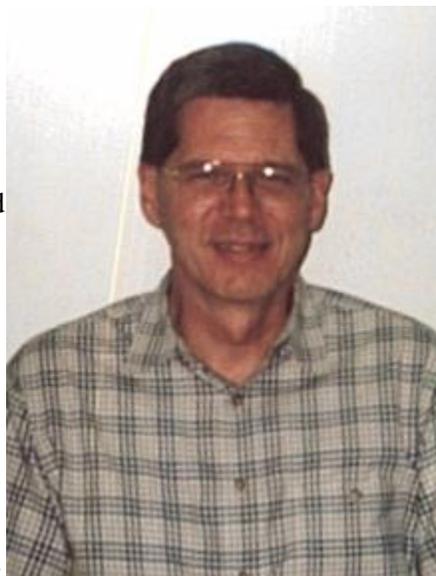
As a parishioner at Sacred Heart, Bob has never declined to share his time, talent and treasure with us. In addition to his new duties as trustee, Bob is an usher at the 7:30 Mass, a

reader, and a member of both the Building and Grounds and Finance Committees. He also helps count the collection one Sunday a month.

Bob's stewardship is not recent behavior. He was co-chair

of the Finance Committee when our new church was built, worked diligently on every raffle ball, and was a member of the Pastor's Advisory Committee.

Outside our parish community,



Bob is treasurer of the Southbury Lion's Club. He also manages to find some time for perennial gardening and stamp collecting. Asked how he fits it all in, his humble reply is that none of these activities involve much more than one meeting a month, so he really does not

do that much. He hopes that others of our parish family will join him in sharing their time, talent and treasure as disciples of Christ.

*Katherine Pavone*



*From the Heart*

**Managing Editor:** Katherine Pavone

**Editors:** Dolores Matzen and Barb Arendt

**Production Editor:** Jean Brickey

**Communications Committee Members:** Barb Arendt, Trisha Beault, Barry Bonetti, Tony DiTamaso, John Dulina, Kathryn Ellis, Roseanne Franco, Susan Laselli, Stuart McKaige, Dennis McLaughlin, Jim Moran, Dee Nazelrod, Al Savard, Zita Seymour, Rich Stephens, Ernie Swanberg, Diane Tomas, George Vachris

**Distribution:** Deborah Bonetti, Vin Bunce, Nicholas Carella, Chris Doran, Marabeth Finerty, Mary Kay Flaherty, Thérèse Jones, Pat Joy, Jim Kowalski, Madeline Murphy, Molly O'Meara, Domenic Narducci, Josephine Narducci, Lina Savard, Magdalene Shuster, Jean Stone

**Layout:** Selena Carella

**Photos:** Jean Brickey and Fran Guarrera

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 55  
Southbury, CT