

Saint Fidelis Church
601 10th Street
Victoria, Kansas 67671

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 5
VICTORIA, KS 67671

Food Bank

In November of 2008, a Food Bank was established at the Parish Office with the encouragement of the Salina Diocese and Bishop Paul Coakley as an ongoing effort to feed the hungry as Jesus requested.

The Food Bank is located at the Parish Activity Center in Victoria.

If you or anyone you know—friends, family, or neighbors—would benefit from the Food Bank, please contact the Parish Office at 601 10th Street or call 785-735-2777.

Likewise, if you would like to donate towards the Food Bank, you may drop off your donations at the same address during office hours or call the Parish Office to schedule a convenient time.

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

With many years having past since the life of St. Fidelis, details about his life are not exact throughout articles found in print or on the Internet. But one thing was consistent—he was a devout Catholic who died because of his beliefs.

He started life with the name of Mark Rey (or Roy, according to some sources), the son of Johannes Rey. He was born in Sigmaringen, Prussia, in the area now known as Germany, in October 1577. Growing up, he was known for his generosity and his concern for the poor. He tutored young boys from noble families, one of whom, Wilhelm von Stotzingen, gave witness to Mark's many sacrifices during the process for his

"Woe to me if I should prove myself but a halfhearted soldier in the service of my thorn-crowned Captain."

-Saint Fidelis

canonization.

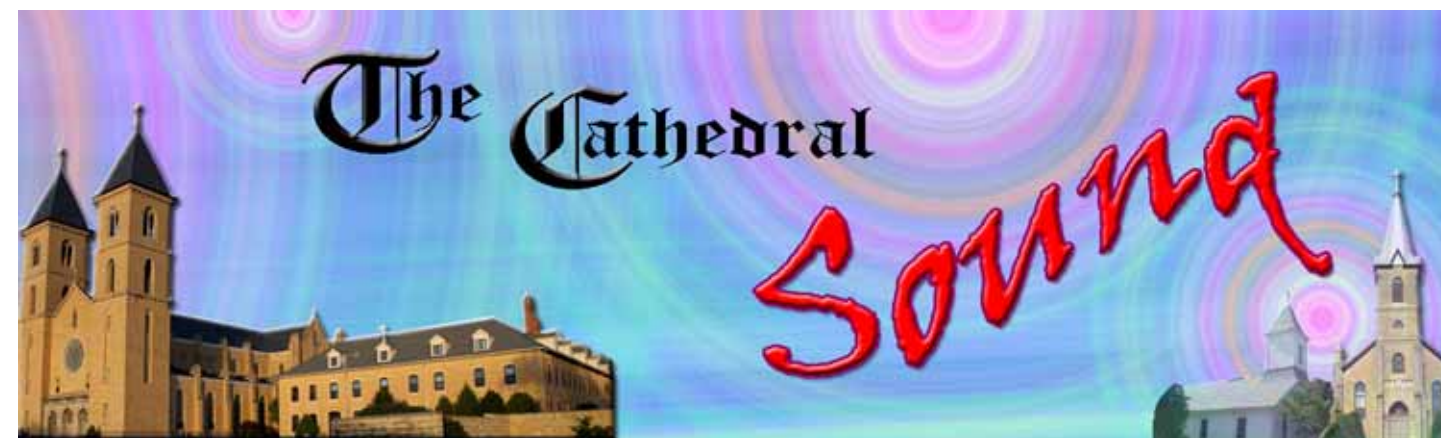
Mark studied philosophy and law, receiving doctorates in both. He established himself as a lawyer, but soon became disgusted with the acts of corruption among his fellow lawyers, who cared little about the poor.

Around the age of 35 in 1612, Mark decided to give up his law profession and join the Capuchin Franciscans with his brother George, at which time he took the name of Fidelis. He gave his wealth to the poor and the needy seminarians. It didn't take long before Fidelis's way of living prompted the friars to choose him as their superior.

Meanwhile, in Switzerland the people were turning away from the Catholic Church. In 1621 Fidelis was sent to preach to the Swiss people. The mission was dangerous and eventually led to Fidelis's death on April 24, 1622, when he was slain in a church in Seewis (or Sevis) by a group of peasants. Fidelis confided to a fellow friar that he constantly prayed for two things: one, that he might never fall into mortal sin, and, two, that he might die for his faith.

Fidelis was canonized a saint on June 29, 1746, by Pope Benedict XIV.

Left: Sigmaringen, Germany, is known for its Prince of Hohenzollern castle which stands on a hill near the Danube River. Top left: A view of the city of Sigmaringen.



February 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

Parish Office:

601 10th Street, Victoria, KS 67671
785-735-2777

Fax: 785-735-2779

Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30-12:00 & 1:00-4:30
Friday 8:30-noon

Catholic Faith Education Office:

785-735-9244

Gift Shop Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30-noon & 1:00-4:30
Friday: 8:30-noon

One of the recommendations that we as Church ministers receive every

time we attend a workshop on "maintaining good parishes" is to publish something more than a bulletin.

The Church bulletin is meant to be a set of announcements concerning what is happening at some specific time in the parish and surrounding parishes or communities. St. Fidelis, St.

Ann and St. Boniface parishes have been offering weekly bulletins for many years.

With this publication, we are accepting the advice of the experts in the area of Church management, and offering a newsletter that we are calling "The Cathedral Sound." We have

asked Ms. Connie Windholz, our technology director, to be editor of the newsletter, and she will be seeking the help of different parishioners and me as she puts it together.

What do we wish to accomplish with the newsletter? I envision it as an educational tool. I think that there are many spiritual and theological areas that cannot be covered in a Sunday homily or even a Sunday bulletin, and so

I hope to offer a number of "Capsule Adult Faith Education" segments. Also, the Diocese tells us to carry through with certain programs, such as stewardship, etc., and those programs will need a fuller explanation than what a bulletin can give. Also, we anticipate that you would like to see some pictures of the things that are happening in our parishes, and given the technology that we have available, we can do it quite easily and professionally with a newsletter.

As we have developed the idea with staff and the Councils, we have surfaced a number of possible areas that can be covered in a newsletter, but we are open to all suggestions. We have asked Connie to work with the staff and the Councils in developing

ideas for articles and pictures. I am certain that she will be willing to listen to your suggestions.

I hope you enjoy this first offering of the newsletter, and I hope that it reminds all of us that we are one community of faith in this particular part of God's creation, trying to improve our spiritual lives, and continuing to honor and praise our God.

Why a Newsletter?

by Father Mike

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Connie Windholz
email: sftech@ruraltel.net

Pastor: Fr. Mike Scully, OFM, Cap.
email: frmikescully@yahoo.com

This is a publication for the parishioners of St. Fidelis Church, Victoria; St. Ann Church, Walker; and St. Boniface Church, Vincent.

Mass Stipends

One of the most misunderstood concepts in the Catholic Church, I believe, is the “Mass Stipend.”

Catholic people have come to believe that “having a Mass said” means that the priest “says” a Mass for a specific person and the offering that is given for the Mass is necessary before the Mass can be said. The implication is that no one else may “share a Mass” because there is only one intention that can be offered. In truth, the Code of Canon Law, the law which governs the legal aspects of the Catholic Church, contains strict laws concerning how Mass offerings are to be regulated.

The theology of the Mass is this: The Mass is the celebration of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—what he has done for us, namely, the gift of eternal redemption. Every Mass is a re-presentation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and therefore is of infinite value. Jesus redeemed all of us, no matter who we are, and every time we celebrate Mass, priest and people, we are sharing in the graces of redemption that Jesus Christ has gained for us. Therefore it is not theologically correct to think that a Mass is said for a specific person. The

Mass is “said,” to use such language, for everyone, because we are all remembering the Lord’s gift to us, sharing once again in his gift to us—our redemption.

Therefore, every one of us can remember our loved ones at Mass, asking the Lord to be part of the lives (living and dead) of particular people that we want to remember. When we publish Mass intentions in the bulletin, we are bringing the whole community’s attention to the intention of some specific people which, of course, is quite acceptable. Because of Canon Law, a priest cannot accept a specific stipend of money for more than one such intention for each Mass, but spiritually speaking, every Mass can have an infinite set of intentions. Again, the reasoning is theological: every Mass is a re-presentation of the gift of Jesus’ redemption, a gift that was offered once and for all, namely, the gift of Jesus’ Passion, Death and Resurrection, but is continually remembered every time a priest says Mass.

by Father Mike Scully
Pastor



With that in mind, here at St. Fidelis, St. Ann and St. Boniface parishes, I have instructed our Church personnel not to take any money for Masses as such, but to continue to publish your intention for a Mass that is celebrated. If you want to make a donation to the Church, as you have your intention published in the bulletin and therefore at Mass, we will of course honor that. But the offering of money is not necessary, and anyone may ask us to publish their specific intention for any day. This does not hold in any other parish, of course, because the pastor has to make the individual decision in his parish. Here, we will continue to publish the intentions that you request of us, even more than one a day, and no offering of money is required.

“Therefore, every one of us can remember our loved ones at Mass, asking the Lord to be part of the lives (living and dead) of particular people that we want to remember.”

Christian Unity— A United Methodist Perspective

by Rev. Jerre W. Nolte, M.Div.
Senior Pastor First United Methodist Church of Hays, Kansas



Long ago, in southern Ellis County, Kansas, a cattle rancher was repairing a fence line along a county road one chilly January day. An unfamiliar vehicle approached the cattleman and came to an abrupt stop. A passenger in the vehicle opened one of the rear doors of the vehicle and slowly walked toward the cattleman. The stranger had a camera hung around their neck.

“What are you doing?” the vehicle passenger asked.

“I’m repairing this fence”, the cattleman replied.

“Oh, I see” commented the stranger. “So that you can keep those cows in this field?” the stranger inquired.

“No. To keep those cattle out of this other field” the cattleman responded.

Some of us spend a great deal of time, energy, and resources keeping unwanted elements of God’s creation separated or apart. The good news in 2009 in Ellis County is that the Catholic Church and United Methodist Church spend little or no time building fences to “keep in” or to “keep out” the other.

In April 2006, on a national level, staff members and directors of the United Methodist General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns visited both the Vatican and its Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. They were received by Cardinal Walter Kasper who welcomed the group with warmth and graciousness. The experience

that included an audience with Pope Benedict XVI must be understood, however, within the ecumenical framework that there are numerous areas in which the two communions engage in significant dialogue. During that time the group shared a mutual concern that the national and international dialogues involving the United Methodist Church and the Catholic Church should continue. Another significant topic of conversation is the way in which United Methodists are now engaging the global nature of the church.

The dialogue continues in 2009. Fortunately, our two communions are expending time, talent, and treasure to further Christian Unity.

“The good news in 2009 in Ellis County is that the Catholic Church and United Methodist Church spend little or no time building fences to ‘keep in’ or to ‘keep out’ the other.”

“Cathedral” Centennial Events

(Continued from page 5)

the 8 Wonders of Kansas and installed them on the electric poles along Cathedral Avenue. The cost of these banners was underwritten by businesses and individuals of Victoria and the surrounding area.

In preparation for the November Groundbreaking Celebration, a Parish Mission was held November 15-20, 2008. Troy and Geralyn Schippers and Randy and Geralyn Graver made arrangements for Fr. Richard Gielow with the Vincentian Parish Mission Center of Kansas City to conduct the mission, which was

projection services of Odus Trober, of Trober Sound of Hays.

A traditional Thanksgiving meal was served to approximately 559 people who contributed a total free will offering of \$5,165. Curt and

Desserts were furnished and the meal was served by community volunteers. The students of Victoria High School transported the tables and chairs to the Grade School and helped with the decorations on Tuesday afternoon,



Left: Members of the parish were ready in the Grade School music room to serve up the delicious food prepared for the Centennial Thanksgiving Day meal.

Bottom Left: Rows of tables were lined up in the Grade School gymnasium ready to seat all who dined.



well received by young and old. A social was held after each session in the Grade School Cafeteria.

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Cathedral Groundbreaking, a Thanksgiving Day Mass was celebrated by Fr. Charles Polifka on November 27, 2008. Each organization in Victoria was represented in the entrance procession. Traditional music was provided by the Cathedral Choir. A registry of baptisms from 1908 and a stone hammer used by John Billinger in the construction of the Cathedral were presented at the offertory. The stone hammer is the property of Leroy Braun who received it from John Billinger as a gift. After the Mass the Centennial DVD was shown in church using the sound and

Diane Unrein made all the necessary arrangements to prepare and serve the meal. Rosie and Gerald Hammerschmidt, Marilyn Stoffel, and Colleen Kuhn prepared the food.

November 25. We look forward to the continued cooperation and participation of the Victoria community as we plan the October 4, 2009, celebration of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone. Other scheduled events are the celebrations of the 100th anniversaries of the first ringing of the bells on May 30, 2011, and of the Dedication of the Cathedral on August 28, 2011.

St. Fidelis Gift Shop — Centennial Items

These items and many others are available in the Gift Shop at 601 10th Street, Victoria:

- NEW! “Cathedral of the Plains Centennial” DVD\$ 5.00
- NEW! “Century of Faith” Music CD
(Traditional hymns sung by local choirs)\$10.00
- NEW! Centennial T-Shirt\$12.00
- NEW! Centennial 3-year Calendar\$10.00
- St. Fidelis “Sharing Our Best” Cookbook.....\$20.00
- “Christmas in the Cathedral” Music CD
(Christmas songs sung by local choirs)\$15.00
- Die Herzoger (in binder)\$25.00

Cross Walk Safety

by Shirley Brungardt
Coordinator of Catholic Faith Education



The Catholic Faith Education program on weekday mornings is fortunate to have

members of the Knights of Columbus who provide assistance to students and other pedestrians who are using the cross walk in front of the grade school. Unfortunately painted lines and a stop sign do not always protect us from harm. This is especially true at the cross walk.

In recent months there have

been a number of issues with drivers speeding through the crossing area or failing to stop when the guard is displaying the stop sign. These are serious issues and could have tragic results.

I would like to offer the following reminders.

To drivers –

- Slow down in the school zones. The speed limit is 20 mph.
- Be prepared to stop if you see someone waiting to enter the crosswalk.
- If you are dropping students off at the school, please do not stop in the middle of the street or the crosswalk to unload your children. Pull to the yellow marked curbing and have children step out of the car on the curb side of the street when they leave the vehicle.

To students –

- Wait for the guard to escort you through the crosswalk.
- If a guard is not present, look both ways before crossing—to the left—to the right—and to the left again. Do not trust that drivers will stop for you.
- Never run through the cross walk.

Thank you for your support in working toward a safer place for the guards, our children and all who use the crosswalk.



Got an Idea for the Newsletter?

Is there something about our parish that has always tweaked your curiosity? How about something concerning the Catholic faith?

If you have a question and want us to answer it in this Newsletter, you can contact us and we'll try our darnedest to get the answer published so others can satisfy their curiosity also.

To give us your questions or ideas for articles,

email sftch@ruraltel.net or call the Parish Office at 785-735-2777.

You can also give us your ideas as we see each other at Mass or wherever, but if we don't have a paper and pencil handy to write it down, we can't guarantee we'll remember what you said. It's an age thing, you know.

Connie



A Look at What's Happening with

by Ivan Werner

The people of Victoria have again demonstrated the faith, hope, and love that sustained the building, maintenance, and improvement of the Cathedral of the Plains over the past 100 years by organizing a 2½ year celebration of the 100th anniversary of the building of the Cathedral. In June of

2006, Father Charles Polifka appointed Kurt and Shanna Dinkel, John and Sonya Linn, Troy and Geralyn Schippers, Benny and Cora Schulte, and Ivan and Verda Werner to a committee to plan this celebration.

At the first meeting of the Centennial Planning Committee,



Above: Rick Rupp, Curt Unrein, and Becky Scheck prepare to hang a banner at the city park's shelter house.

Top Right: Dennis Braun and Rick Rupp watch as Fr. Charles addresses a crowd of well wishers.

Right: Many parishioners gathered at the park July 22, 2007, to say "good-bye" and "thank you" to Fr. Charles.



on June 25, 2006, it was decided that celebrations would be held to commemorate the 100th anniversaries of the following events: Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2008,

"groundbreaking for the Cathedral"; October 4, 2009, "laying of the cornerstone"; and August 28, 2011, "dedication of the Cathedral". It was decided later that a fourth celebration would be held to commemorate the "first ringing of the bells" in conjunction with Fidelisfest, May 30, 2011.

June 1, 2007, Jan Brungardt, Cora Schulte, Verda and Ivan Werner, and Connie Windholz traveled to Kansas Sampler Headquarters in Inman, Kansas, to accept the nomination of the Cathedral of the Plains as one of 24 finalists for the 8 Wonders of Kansas. A vote of the people would pick the 8 Wonders. On Kansas Day, January 29, 2008, Jan, Cora, Verda, and Ivan traveled to Topeka to accept the honor of being selected as one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas from Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

A surprise farewell party was held for Fr. Charles Polifka on Sunday, July 22, 2007, in the City Park. Rick Rupp of Rupp Arts and Signs prepared a large "Thank You Fr. Charles" banner for the occasion. Bertha and Ken Brungardt, Jan and Gene Brungardt, Jamey and Angie Roth, Mark and Kris Schulte,

Curt and Diane Unrein, and Tom and Det Younger organized and served an excellent picnic meal for the occasion. Jeff Kisner, chairperson of the Pastoral Council, formally thanked Fr.

the "Cathedral" Centennial Events

Charles by summarizing all of the accomplishments of the parish under his guidance. Fr. Charles was presented with several parting gifts, including a small Stained Glass Window depicting "Our Good Shepherd," created by Stan and Mary Detrixhe of Hays.

A logo design contest was organized by the committee to create an official logo for the centennial celebration. Connie Windholz, selected as publicity chairperson by the committee, organized the contest into four divisions: Grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12, and an open division. Prizes of \$50, first place, \$30 second place, and \$20 third place were awarded in each class. The first place winner in each of the school classes was entered in the open class and the overall winner of the open class was awarded \$100. Brenda Meder and a committee from the Hays Arts Council judged the 76 entries. Each entrant was presented a certificate of participation, and a thumbnail picture of each logo was included in the Centennial Calendar. Jordan Ottley was awarded first place in both the open class and 9-12 division. Austin Gagnon and Evan Koerner received second and third place, respectively, in the 9-12 division. In the 6-8 division, winners were Amanda Braun, first; Katelyn Lang, second; and Joe Roth, third. The K-5 division winners were Julia Nowak, first; Catie Romme, second; and Nichole Dinkel and Sara Schippers, tied for third. The winning logos will be used on promotional items throughout the

celebration of the Centennial. The original artwork for the logos is on display in the gathering room of the Cathedral.

A 24-track music CD entitled "A Century of Faith," was produced by Victoria native Wayne Billinger of



Left: The official Cathedral of the Plains Centennial logo was inspired by the winning logo contest design by Jordan Ottley.

Advantage Studio in Hays. It includes numbers by the Cathedral Choir, Youth Choir, Jubilee Choir, Four Star, Nostalgics, and Trilogy. Many of the special musical arrangements were created by Benny Schulte who, before his death on October 9, 2007, prepared a notebook of music used in liturgies in the Cathedral over the past 100 years. Marilyn Braun, Det Younger, Neil Haerich, and Kathy Dreiling Amrein directed the choirs as they perfected the music for recording. Leona Schulte contributed her talents as accompanist.

In the fall of 2007, the Technology Class of Victoria High School, under the direction of John Linn, began work on a DVD depicting the history of the building of the Cathedral. The class completed the DVD in November 2008 under the direction of Stuart Moeckel.

We welcomed Fr. Mike Scully to

the Centennial Planning Committee in September 2007. Around that time, we decided to produce a 2½-year calendar to commemorate the centennial. Connie Windholz designed the calendar which includes pictures of every altar, stained glass window, station of the cross, and statue, as well as many views of the interior and exterior of the cathedral. Mitch Weber, a Victoria native, did an excellent job of photography for the calendar. Michelle Geist coordinated the sale of advertising, and Cora Schulte and other members of the Centennial Planning Committee sold 150 ads to individuals and businesses in the Victoria area.

On April 23, 2008, Norma and Vernon Berens and Verda and Ivan Werner traveled to Scott City to pick up 72 cases of bottled water donated by Victoria native Kay Werth and her husband Dick of Auto World, Hays. The bottle label, designed by Connie Windholz, displays the official Centennial Logo, a picture of the Cathedral, and a schedule of the Centennial events. The water is to be used during the various Centennial celebrations.

T-Shirts displaying the winning logos from the Logo Contest were designed as a souvenir of the Centennial.

A billboard featuring the Cathedral of the Plains as one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas was designed and constructed by Rick Rupp of Rupp Arts and Signs in cooperation with the Ampride Service Station of Victoria. The billboard is located just west of the Victoria exit of I-70 and lists the Mass times at the Cathedral. Rick also designed and manufactured 20 welcome banners featuring the Cathedral as one of

(Continued on page 6)