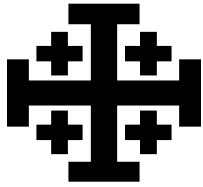


The Communique

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

JANUARY-MARCH 2003

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF
ST. ANN CATHOLIC PARISH



Prayer on the Go!

Most Gracious Lord,

I thank You
with all my heart
for the many blessings
you have bestowed
upon me and
my family.

I pray that You
will continue to
watch over us and
preserve us from evil.

Amen.

*That sacrament
which is nature's
proclaims the
message we have
heard and seen so
often—
in apparent death
there is rebirth and
renewal.*

Celebrating our Clergy Staff

The phenomenal growth that St. Ann continues to experience has caused many needs to develop throughout the faith community. As we noted in our inaugural issue of *The Communique*, one big need was created with the departure of Father John Dick.

For the past six months, St. Ann parish has had the good fortune of having the services of Father Michael Chesney and Father Francis Majors, both of whom have been assisting with Life Teen masses and ministry. Father Chesney is a popular teacher at Jesuit High School in Dallas, while Father Francis is a

newly ordained Carmelite priest. Both men have served our faith community with sincere dedication and we owe them a great deal of thanks for their time and efforts. While they may continue to assist the St. Ann Life Teen program in the future, in all likelihood they will spend less time with us now that St. Ann has welcomed its new priest-in-residence, Father Michael Forge.

Father Michael comes to St. Ann from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish. Father Michael knows that he has a big challenge in front of him in that the ongoing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Is it Bob the Builder? It's Father Michael Chesney working side-by-side with the teens on the Life Teen Mexico Mission Trip! Our thanks to Father Chesney and Father Frances Majors (*not pictured*) for their dedication to the Life Teen ministry these past few months.

Nature's Sacrament: Death

If there is a good time to think about our own death—apart from when death seems imminent—it is probably now, in the winter of the seasons. Most of the trees have lost their leaves and afford us a reminder that there is in the cycle of all living things a time or real apparent death. The green grass has turned to brown; the weather has turned colder. This is a quieter, slower time that invites reflection. But that sacrament which is nature's proclaims the message we have

heard and seen so often—in apparent death there is rebirth and renewal.

The fact that human death is inevitable does not mean we want to think about it or come to an understanding—personal and profound—of the meaning of death. If there is neither ultimate meaning and understanding about death, then our life as well loses meaning. We become slaves to lesser goals and serve lesser gods. Life becomes measured by achieve-

ments exterior to it. But these achievements are powerless to transcend death.

The absolute and stark reality of our own inevitable death forces us to examine more closely our life. What is there in our life that will transcend death? What meaning does Jesus have in our life and in our death? In his own person has He not linked both life and death together? Does not our faith teach us that the mystery of our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Mass Times

Sat Anticipatory 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am
10:00 am
12Noon
& 4:30 pm
(a Life Teen Mass)

Domingos-en Español 7:00 pm

Weekday Masses

Mon—Fri 7:00am, 12Noon
Sat 8:00 am

Reconciliation

Sat 4:00—4:45 pm
or by Appointment

THE COMMUNIQUE

Editor:

Regina Johnson

Publisher:

Andrea Gowans

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Welcome, Father Michael Forge!

Dear St. Ann parishioners,
I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the overwhelming welcome that you extended to me upon my arrival here at St. Ann. Thank you for making my transition from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish to St. Ann a positive and enthusiastic experience.

Prior to arriving at St. Ann I was a priest in residence at Seton for three and a half years while I carried out the duties and responsibilities of full-time vocation director for the Diocese of Dallas. While at Seton I assisted in parish ministry as my schedule would permit, such as daily mass and occasional weekend masses. Here at St. Ann I will continue to function in the capacity of full-time vocation director but I am happy to an-

nounce that I will have the additional role of serving St. Ann in a greater capacity than I did at Seton.

Along with celebrating daily mass at 7:00 am, I will celebrate the Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Life Teen masses most week-ends. Also, I'll be hearing confessions weekly on Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Other than these "fixed" duties, I plan to be a visible presence here and help out with baptisms, weddings, funerals and whatever else the Lord asks. You can catch me working in the church office on Mondays and Wednesdays or reach me by e-mail frmichael@stannparish.org or by phone (ext. 1102). Please note that Thursday is my day off (I call them "Holy Thursdays!").



Fr. Michael Forge and Domino, a 2½ year old Border Collie mix

St. Ann is a dynamic and spiritually charged parish. I am looking forward to serving you as we all work together in building God's kingdom here in Coppell!

- Fr. Michael Forge

Mass Etiquette

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation In making your confession, list your sins as concisely as possible. The priest does not need an explanation or rationalization for why something occurred.

If you have an extremely long confession to make, and there are many people behind you and Mass starts soon, make your confession at a later date or call the parish office to schedule an appointment at a later date.

And finally, when someone is in the Confessional, keep a *very wide distance of it*. It is very rude to stand anywhere near the Confessional when it is in use by another.

Contributed by Andrea Gowans

Nature's Sacrament: Death

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
own life and death must become intimately entwined with the life and death of Jesus?

Paradoxically, Jesus teaches that to transcend death and be transformed through the resurrection

requires us to die to ourselves now, for if we share in His death we shall also share in His resurrection.

Just as we know with certitude that the coldest, bleakest winter will eventually give way to new

birth and new life in the spring. But there can be no spring without winter, and no resurrection without death.

- Msgr. Broderick (Pastor)

Ministry Spotlight: Ministry of Consolation

If you are saddened by the recent loss of a loved one, then you need to give yourself time to work through the natural process of grieving. The St. Ann Ministry of Consolation is here to support you as you move on with your life after the death of a loved one.

This past October, fifteen members of our parish dedicated themselves to this new ministry, and received ministry training from the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved (NCMB) through the Dallas Diocese.

These ministers are dedicated to support our faith community

members who are suffering from life's losses. Our support comes in the form of Listening, Presence, and Prayer. The ministry also uses the New Day Journal as part of the eight step program to help people cope with the loss of a loved one. Journals are available to participants at the first session.

As additional needs are determined, the ministry will expand to help with other areas of grief such as divorce, loss of employment, and loss of a pet.

Additional plans for the ministry include hosting a quarterly mass of healing, a special All Souls Day Liturgy, assisting in

funeral mass planning and preparation, providing support to those in need of hospice help, or palliative visits and one-on-one support as needed.

For more information, please contact Deacon Pete at (972) 393-5544 ext. 1810 or email deaconpete@stannparish.org.



St. Ann Ministers of Consolation in training

You may also contact Pat Hynes in the parish office at ext. 1104.

Contributed by Deacon Pete Markwald

Our New Church—Did you know...?

Fashioned after our original parish structure, our new church is a Spanish mission design basilica. The main church seats approximately 1,400 people, has floors of ceramic tile, and the columns and ceiling features are pre-cast stone.

The Honduran mahogany pews and kneelers in the main church and chapel were made in Indonesia. Surprisingly, their light color is the natural mahogany color. The dark mahogany we normally see has been stained dark red.

Each of the chandeliers is 9 foot high by 11 foot wide and weighs 1,000 pounds. Speakers for the sound system are hidden in the middle of the chandeliers.

Contributed by Regina Johnson

Q & A—“What can or can't a deacon do?”

Deacons, like priests and bishops, receive and share in the Sacrament of Holy Orders and are considered a part of the clergy. Their role is to be a helper of bishops and priests in service to the People of God. If there is one word that would identify the deacon, it would be *service*.

The deacon's basic service is threefold. *Service of the Word*,

includes proclaiming the gospel message, teaching, conducting retreats, and counseling. *Service of the altar* is most obvious at Mass, but deacons also witness marriages, baptize, bring viaticum (Eucharist) to the dying, preside at wakes and funerals, and conduct prayer services, too. Through his *Service of charity*, the deacon has a special responsibility to identify to the

Church those who are in need.

Deacons do *not* consecrate the Eucharist, hear confessions or anoint the sick. These are still reserved for the priest.

The deacon's role is to inspire, promote and help coordinate the service that the whole Church must undertake in imitation of Christ.

Contributed by Jerry Elizondo

A deacon's basic service is threefold: Service of the Word, Service of the Altar, and Service of Charity.

By offering encouragement and many opportunities for success, it is the Center's hope that each child will establish positive feelings about him/herself and his/her place in God's World.

Religious Education: Early Childhood Discovery Center

St. Ann Early Childhood Discovery Center (E.C.D.C.) is a service ministry to St. Ann Parish and our community. It is the Center's purpose to provide a balanced program in which each child can grow and develop within a warm, caring Catholic atmosphere. The intellectual, social and physical objectives of early childhood education are integrated with the spiritual objectives of a Catholic education.

E.C.D.C. offers a balanced program of group and individual activities. Each day's activities are centered on a "thematic unit". In developing a theme, teachers select topics they be-

lieve to be relevant and of interest to the children. They build an array of lessons around that central idea. Classrooms are arranged with interest centers and are designed to foster all aspects of a child's development. A special time each week is set aside for Chapel, a time when all come together to praise God.

In addition, activities are planned throughout the year to highlight holidays and special themes. The Halloween Carnival, Thanksgiving Feast and Pow-Pow, and Christmas and Spring Programs are some of the events the children enjoy and participate in during the year.

Other big events at E.C.D.C. are the Pumpkin Patch field trip, Rodeo, Zoo Field Trip, and the Farm Lady.

The St. Ann E.C.D.C. program includes classes for 18-24 month olds, and 2, 3, and 4 year olds. A Pre-Kindergarten class is also offered. Registration for all of these classes begins in early February. Look for more information in the Sunday bulletin as registration draws closer.

E.C.D.C. is sometimes referred to as "pre-school," but our Early Childhood Discovery Center offers much more than a series of activities. It is Catholic-centered learning and discovery!

Contributed by Lian Loop

Staff Spotlight: Religious Education

The St. Ann faith community has been blessed in so many ways since its inception, but one blessing in particular stands out for anyone raising young children. That blessing, of course, is our Religious Education program, under the guidance of Sister Ruth Ellen Dean.

For the past ten years Sister Ruth has overseen the Religious Education program at St. Ann, conducting her day to day activities with a deep faith and boundless energy and enthusiasm. Today, the Religious Education program has 336 children enrolled in Sunday School, and 1,163 children registered in Religious Education classes!

A reluctant teacher at first, Sister Ruth was called into teaching and dutifully followed a path

that ultimately led her to St. Ann parish. Recently she witnessed a group of birds whose interaction, she says, parallels her own path into teaching. The event she witnessed consisted of a mother Cardinal trying to teach her babies how to fly. After the mother demonstrated the art of flying, she eventually had to resort to pushing one her babies out of the nest to get the bird moving. Well, whoever "pushed" Sister Ruth into teaching many years ago, we at St. Ann are certainly thankful for your efforts!

Sister Ruth would be the first to tell someone that she has not accomplished all that she has by herself. Sister Ruth is joined by a dedicated staff: **Loreen Shillinglaw**, Office Manager; **Kim Cesario**, Program Assis-

tant; **Dee James**, Program Assistant, **Mary Leonard**, Program Assistant; and **Tena Allain**, Director of Sunday School.

Over the years the Religious Education program has also attracted numerous volunteers who have contributed in all sorts of ways to make the St. Ann Religious Education program something any parish would be proud to call its own.

Thank you, Sister Ruth and staff, for all that you have done and a special thank you goes out to all of those volunteers—past and present—who have made our Religious Education such a spiritually enriching environment for our children.

Contributed by Bernie Yanelli



St. Ann R.E. Staff—(L to R) Kim Cesario, Sister Ruth Ellen Dean, Mary Leonard, Tina Allain, Loreen Shillinglaw, and Dee James

Misa Dominical en Español en St. Ann

De regreso a la ciudad un domingo al atardecer, luego de haber estado viajando durante todo el día, me aligeré para llegar a la misa de las 7PM, la última, en St. Ann. Yo sabía que era una misa en español – que nunca había estado en una misa en español – y que, ya que no hablo español, con seguridad no iba a entender lo que estaba sucediendo.

Para lo que no estaba preparada era para lo “especial” que fue la misa y para la experiencia tan maravillosa que fue para mí.

Comenzó con música alegre y la participación entusiasta de todos en el cántico de entrada mientras el padre Eduardo y el diácono Pedro se acercaban al altar. Parecía que todos se aprestaban para una “fiesta”.

Pero la realidad es que sí estábamos preparándonos para la “Fiesta Magna” – la celebración de la Sagrada Eucaristía.

Desde las manos amigables que me estrecharon, la bienvenida calurosa que recibí al comienzo de la misa hasta los sentimientos tan tremendos de familias unidas en oración y la unidad de todos que participaban en la misa, me sentí muy afortunada de ser parte de todo.

Aunque no entendía las palabras del padre Eduardo durante la misa, me hizo concentrar más y me dio un entendimiento más profundo del significado de todas las partes de la misa. Me recordó que no importa el idioma que uno habla, la misa se celebra de igual manera en todos los idiomas.

Cuando salía de la iglesia, me sentí tan afortunada de haber tenido la oportunidad de compartir esta misa con la comunidad de fe hispana de la parroquia de St. Ann.

Contribuido por

Regina Johnson

Traducido por Anabelle Lugo



El Coro de St. Ann / St. Ann Spanish Choir

Sunday Spanish Mass at St. Ann

Returning to town one Sunday evening after traveling all day, I hurried to make the 7:00 pm (last) Mass at St. Ann. I knew it was a Spanish Mass—that I had never been to a Spanish Mass—and that, because I did not speak Spanish, I probably wouldn't be able to understand what was going on.

What I wasn't prepared for was how “special” this Mass was and what a wonderful experience it was for me.

It started with the lively music and how enthusiastically everyone participated in singing the

entrance song as Father Eduardo and Deacon Pedro approached the altar. It was as if everyone was getting ready for a “feast.” But then, we were preparing for the “ultimate feast” - the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

From the friendly handshake and warm greeting I received at the beginning of the Mass to the tremendous feeling of families united-in-prayer and a genuine closeness between everyone participating in this Mass, I felt very fortunate to have been a part of it.

Although I could not understand Father Eduardo's words during Mass, it made me concentrate more and gave me an even deeper awareness of the meaning of every part of the Mass. It reminded me that no matter what language you speak, the Mass is celebrated in all languages.

As I left the church, I felt so fortunate to have had the opportunity to share this Mass with the St. Ann Spanish faith community.

Contributed by Regina Johnson

Fine Arts Organization—Current Event



Upcoming FAO artists Shaun Groves (left) and Grover Wilkens (right)

The St. Ann Fine Arts Organization (FAO) was started in 2002 with the mission *to bring people closer to Christ through arts and entertainment that promote fellowship and increase faith.* In 2002 the FAO held two concerts (John Michael Talbot and Jesse Manibusan) and two dinner dances to help raise funds to underwrite future events.

Entering into the New Year, the FAO is pleased to present 2 diverse concerts to reach varied audiences.

Contemporary Christian Concert For the contemporary music lover, Shaun Groves will perform on February 8th at 7:30pm. Shaun’s music is acoustic-driven modern Pop with an aggressive edge. Balancing tender ballads with driving rock anthems, his music reaches audiences from middle school through adults.

Groves’ music and ministry are tightly entwined in his life; his music celebrates the joy and wonder of his daily walk with Christ. Many of his songs focus on drawing listeners to Christ’s message of hope and redemption and challenging them to action.

Opening that night will be Curtis Stephan, providing an opportunity to hear songs from his long-awaited new CD before it is released.

Classical/Sacred Concert For classical music lovers, the Orchestra of New Spain will perform a concert of sacred music compositions, including a Mass by Courcelle and a vespers service of Handel, on February 28th at 7:30pm. The Orchestra was founded in 1989 by conductor Grover Wilkens. Playing beautiful major unpublished works of the Spanish 18th century that have lain dormant for

the past two centuries in the Royal Court and cathedrals in Spain, the Orchestra established itself as the premier exponent in the world of the lost music of the Spanish Baroque. The Orchestra’s concerts also feature works from the general repertoire of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Check out the bulletin/website for details on tickets, other events and on becoming a Patron of the Arts.

Contributed by Maureen Vanacore

The Dominican Sisters are presently in 22 schools across seven states; teaching children and young adults from pre-school through college level; in schools both suburban and inner city, private and diocesan.

Development News: “What about a parish school?”

The decision to build and maintain a parish school requires a serious and on-going commitment by the entire parish, for the life of the parish.

This January, we welcome two Dominican sisters from St. Cecilia Congregation in Nashville—Sr. John Mary (Director of Education) and Sr. Mary Elizabeth (Director of Development). Both sisters have extensive experience in Catholic education and will be speaking with us on the importance of Catholic education as well as the intricacies, and com-

mitment necessitated, to support a parish school. Two evening presentations are planned. All parishioners are invited to attend.

If you are a proponent of a parish school, there is something you can do today! If it is decided to proceed with a parish school, prior to raising the funds for the school, our first task will be to retire the current loan on the new church construction. By actively pledging and paying to the current Capital Campaign, and encouraging others who support a parish school to do the

same, you will be helping us move more quickly toward the realization of a parish school—or whatever mission the Lord has planned next for St. Ann!

Contributed by Andrea Gowans

Celebrating our Clergy Staff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
 success of the Life Teen program has created high expectations from its many constituents and their parents. We have every confidence, however, that Father Michael will fill the void created by Father John's departure and that the Life Teen Program will continue to flourish under his direction and that of Life Teen Director Kurt Klement.

Aside from the ever-growing needs of Life Teen, we would like to highlight one other ministry that is of vital importance to the health and vitality of St. Ann and that is the St. Ann Deaconate. St Ann presently has four Deacons: Rev. Mr. Joe Salvo, who has faithfully served St. Ann since 1996; Rev. Mr. Ed Scarborough, another long term deacon, who has served St. Ann since his ordination in 1992; Rev. Mr. Pete Markwald, who was ordained as a Deacon this past summer; and, finally, Rev. Mr. Pedro Herran, who assists Father Eduardo Gonzalez at the Spanish Mass and who also handles all the Spanish community sacraments and ministries (which is quite an undertaking in itself).



Deacon Pedro Herran (left) and Father Eduardo Gonzalez

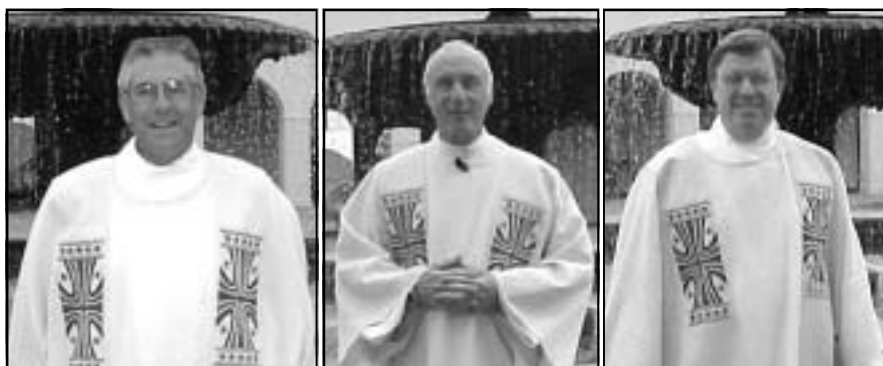
With respect to Father Gonzalez, he has served the St. Ann faith community with great zeal and fortitude for many years. For those who do not attend the Spanish Mass, Father Gonzalez may not be a household name, but rest assured, our faith community could not function properly without his dedicated services.

Finally, where would our parish of St. Ann be without our "token nun" (as she jokingly calls herself) Sister Ruth Ellen Dean. Sister has been with us

at St. Ann for the past ten years serving as Director of Religious Education. This January, she will celebrate her Jubilee (50 year anniversary of her vows) as a Daughter of Charity. A special Mass will be celebrated January 11th at 7:00 pm, followed by a reception. All parishioners are invited to come and join Sister Ruth in celebrating this tremendous milestone.



This wonderful photo is a youthful Sister Ruth Ellen Dean when she was 23 years old. Rumor has it that she had an audition for the Flying Nun T.V. series that same year, but Sister Ruth has vowed never to comment upon such rumors!



(L to R) Deacon Pete Markwald, Deacon Joe Salvo, and Deacon Ed Scarborough

We should thus be thankful for all of these faithful men and women of God and their ongoing efforts to make St. Ann such a thriving faith community. May God continue to bless them and their special callings to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Contributed by Bernie Yanelli

“Faces of St. Ann”



September 6 thru 8—St. Ann Carnival was much fun for all and a huge success thanks to the tireless efforts of the 2002 Carnival Executive Committee members. Thank you all!



October 6—Parishioners and pets gather in the courtyard to receive a Pet Blessing by Deacon Pete Markwald, in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4)



October 19 & 20—The men of Brothers in Christ enjoying fellowship, faith and food at their annual retreat.



(above) Ready to have some fun? The Friday morning Bible Study will begin a 10 week study beginning on Friday, Jan. 10th, and ending the week before Easter (April 11th).

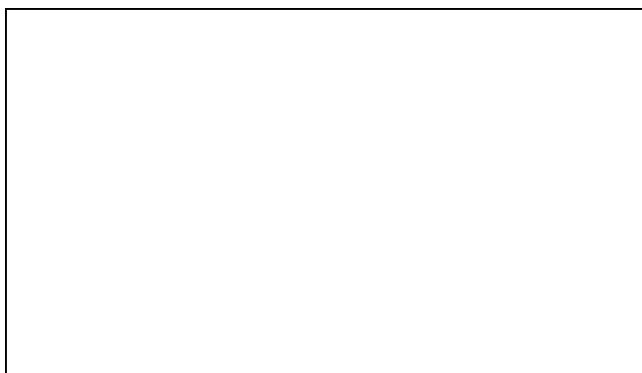


October 27—Dedication Anniversary festivities included jugglers, bounce-houses, and clowns at the reception following the Noon Dedication Anniversary Mass.



November 3—New parishioners check out the ministries, organizations, and all that our parish of St. Ann has to offer at “Discover St. Ann”.

There is never a dull moment in the Nursery thanks to the many volunteers who watch and play with young children during weekend Masses!



November 16 & 17—Members of Spanish CRSP Team XXI take a quick break for a picture during their renewal weekend.



November 20—Bishop Galante reminds us that we do not “belong” to a church, but that we are church in his talk on “What It Means to Be Church” at the Eagles Wings Lunch.

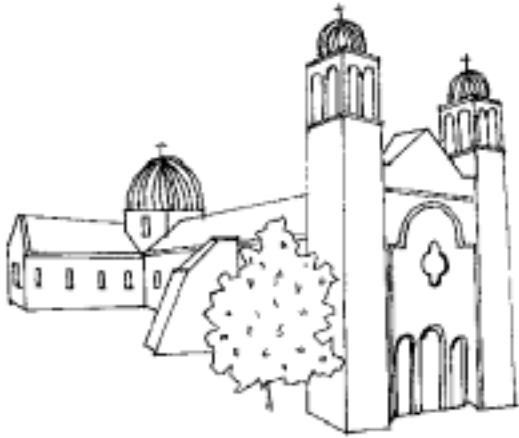


During the Christmas season, St. Ann parishioners provided over 2,200 gifts for the needy in Coppell and Dallas who are served by Catholic Charities through the Magi Tree gift program.

THE COMMUNIQUE

A newsletter for the parishioners of St. Ann Catholic Parish

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*Thank you to the following parishioner for sponsoring this issue of The Communique:
Dr. Ernie Fernandez*

Upcoming Events

January

- 1—New Year's Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
Parish offices will be closed.
- 4—Feast Day of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 5—Feast Day of St. John Neumann
- 5—Rite of Confirmation (ROC) begins
- 8—SAY Teacher In-Service
- 10—Friday Morning Bible Study begins
- 11—Sister Ruth Ellen Dean's Jubilee Celebration
- 12—"Discover St. Ann" New Parishioner Event
- 20 & 22—Dominican Sisters speak on Catholic Education
- 26—Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
- 27—ECDC Registration Packets available (for currently enrolled students)

February

- 3—Women's Fellowship election of new officers
- 7—RE Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- 7—ECDC Registration Packets and Fees due (for currently enrolled students)
- 7 thru 9—RCIA Retreat

See the bulletin for all event details.

February (con't)

- 9—Fine Arts Organization - Shaun Groves Concert
- 10—ECDC Registration Packets available (for new students)
- 14—MYC Valentine Party
- 14—Natural Family Planning class series begins
- 16—Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
- 24—1st Reconciliation Group Service
- 23 & 26—Passion Play auditions
- 28—Fine Arts Organization - Orchestra of New Spain Concert

March

- 1—Supper Club Spring Kickoff Dinner
- 4—RE Teacher In-Service
- 5—Ash Wednesday
- 7 thru 9—Life Teen Spring Retreat
- 11 & 13—1st Communion Parent Organizational Meeting
- 12 thru 14—ECDC "Donuts with Dad"
- 16—Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
- 22 & 23—Men's CRHP Retreat

Calling all thespians!

St. Ann Passion Play

If you are high school age or older, you are encouraged to participate in this year's Passion Play.

Our cast requires a minimum of 20 adults (9 of them men). Behind the scenes crew requires a minimum of 10 persons.

Auditions: February 23 & 26

Rehearsals: Monday nights,
March 3 thru April 7

Performances: All Palm Sunday
Masses, April 12 & 13 weekend

For more information, contact Ed Reiss

(972) 492- 1573

- 29—Men's Club Spring Golf Tournament
- Look for Men's Club Softball Leagues to also start this March