People came by car, bike, and foot to dedicate the new St. Joseph’s Catholic Church on Sunday, August 23, 2009. It was a memorable event as the altar was anointed and the Holy Spirit entered the church and the hearts of the parishioners. Page 5 of the newsletter highlights some special thank-yous and pictures from this blessed event. This month we will have a unique opportunity to share our faith as the diocese begins “On A Journey Together.” Please turn to page 6 of the newsletter to learn more about this program of evangelization and faith sharing. I encourage all of us to look into our hearts and see what we can do to strengthen our faith and share it with each other and our community. I also want to highlight the fact that we will be naming the newsletter. Page 4 will give you contact information for submitting your creative newsletter name.

Peace,
Mandy Couture
September Birthdays

2  Larry Corkrean  
3  Mike Drysdale, Diana Smith  
4  Amanda Vogl  
5  Richard Bass, Susan Dugan, Racheal Riis  
6  Debra Darling, Margel de Leon, Stephanie Gerleman, Jacob Larson, Steve Swenson  
7  Jim Busch  
8  Scott Creger, Jess Imes, Kathryn Russell  
9  Rachel Armstrong, Shirley Bittinger, Adam Harker, Vincent Junker, Corinne Vogl  
10  Becky Conrad, Shirley Cunningham  
12  Barbara Corkrean, Ally Pickering  
13  Andrew Vogl  
14  Katherine Hartman  
15  Cristobal Lopez, Erin Pauly  
16  Kayla Barnes, Rhea Coffman, Nicholas Lyon  
17  Rob Hall  
19  Angela Davis, Parker Klimesh  
20  Mary Jo Creger, Sabrina Hughes, Casey Seidler, Carol Ward  
21  Debby Corkrean, Jeff Elliott  
22  Kathy Proffitt  
23  Beth Flander, Anne Golwitzer, Karla Moore, Rebecca Pugh, Caitlyn White  
24  Elizabeth Lyon  
25  Dee Dolton, Anne Elliott, Eric Smith  
26  Gary Kiernan, Carol Kiernan  
27  Elijah Cowman, Lucas Schafroth  
28  Haley Buckalew, Mackenzie Davis, Linda Hermanstorfer  
29  Alissa Brownlee, Jessica Kruckenburg, Cassandra Roth  
30  Mary Snyder  

Wedding Anniversaries

1  Mike & Gerene Farrell  
3  Mike & Teresa Hoffelmeyer  
4  Dale & Kate Hartman, Beth & Randy Molln, John & Jean Pletchette,  
7  Mike & Lizabeth Price  
8  Carl & Katie Ann Seidler  
9  Bill & Cheryl Adams  
13  John & Dana Harper  
14  David & Sarah Anker  
16  Jerry & Roseanne Bittinger  
17  Ryan & Kristin Swalve  
20  Patrick & Theresa Navin  
22  Richard & Pamela Heckmann  
23  Anthony & Marilyn Klein  
25  Robert & Robin Hughes  
28  Gary & Carol Kiernan, Richard & Fonda Bass, Bud & Shirley Bittinger  
30  Keith & Julie Wheeler  

Baptism Anniversaries

2  Matthew Sents  
12  Ally Pickering  
13  Jacob Larson  
14  Brittany Swenson  
17  Jessica Fairholm  
20  Morgan Wickman  
25  Kacie Feldmann  
27  Kyla Dickey  
29  Amanda Vogl  
30  Braden Buckalew
Dear St. Joseph Parishioners:

In Pope Benedict XVI’s latest Encyclical Letter entitled, *CARITAS IN VERITATE* (Charity in Truth), he speaks of the “logic of gratuity” or love received is love given. In his own words he states, “Charity is love received and given. It is “grace” (charis). Its source is the wellspring of the Father’s love for the Son, in the Holy Spirit. Love comes down to us from the Son. It is creative love, through which we have our being; it is redemptive love, through which we are recreated. Love is revealed and made present by Christ (cf. Jn 13:1) and “poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Rom 5:5). As the objects of God’s love, men and women become subjects of charity, they are called to make themselves instruments of grace, so as to pour forth God’s charity and to weave networks of charity (CV #5).”

Over the past several days, weeks, months and years I have seen the reality of this logic of gratuity played out in our parish community. We as a parish community have now celebrated the Rite of Dedication of our new church and we are just now beginning to settle into our new home. This new beginning would not be possible if it were not for everyone in our parish family living out the reality of “love received is love given away.” I have witnesses this logic of gratuity in action. So many people have given so much without expecting anything in return simply because giving in love is the call of Christian life.

We are to weave networks of charity throughout our lives and in all of our relationships. I have witnessed a network of charity that began in 2001 and 2002 in our early conversations about the need for a new parish home. These conversations led to the formation of the Future Needs Committee and by so doing a network of charity was woven.

That same logic of gratuity, that same giving expecting nothing in return, continued in so many ways in the design phase of our project and even in the setbacks that we experienced along the way. Your support shown in our capital campaign efforts and the very generous response that we have received and continue to receive in our fundraising efforts is another sign to me that the grace of charity is being lived out each day in our parish community. The weaving of the network of charity, this giving without counting the cost, can be seen time and again throughout this effort and I am touched in the deepest way possible by your generous spirits and charity of hearts.

Finally, countless people, known and unknown to me, helped to make the physical move to our new home possible. So many helped to make our dedication celebration such a wonderful event and my simple thank you in this letter seems so inadequate; but THANK YOU, each and everyone of you. The weaving of this network of charity continues for us as we continue to celebrate God’s gift of love and grace for us as a parish community in our new parish home. May we continue to shine forth Charity in Truth in all of our words and deeds by giving what we have received; God’s grace and love.

With deepest gratitude,

Fr. Chris

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### Reflection Questions

**September 6, 2009**
**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37)
What are some of the things that happen in our world that cause you to feel fearful or hopeless? How do you handle those feelings? In what ways are you helped at such times by your faith? By your family and friends? By others?

**September 13, 2009**
**Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(Isaiah 50:4-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35)
Why do people reject other people? Have you ever been rejected for doing what was right or for “not going along with the crowd”? What “crosses” do you have to “take up” in your life right now? Will you ask Jesus to help you?

**September 20, 2009**
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(Wisdom 2:12, 17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37)
What kinds of bad news at home or at school might people your age not want to face? Do you think it is better to act as though everything will be alright, or to ask questions about what might happen? Why? In what ways have you ever been involved in arguments about “Who’s the greatest?”

**September 27, 2009**
**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(Numbers 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48)
Why do you think Jesus uses exaggerated examples to call our attention to how our bodies can lead us into sin? Name some of the ways you have used your hands, feet, and eyes to help make God’s reign visible to others.
Pastoral Council Minutes--August 6, 2009
The August Pastoral Council meeting was held on Thursday evening, August 6, 2009 at 7:30 in the Parish Rectory. Present were: Fr. Chris, Kris Jacobsen, Kathleen Kordick, Jeff Honkomp, Mike Corkrean, Sam Sullivan. Absent were: Terry McNamara, Julie Wheeler.

Fr. Chris relayed that the new building was coming together nicely. Many last minute details are being taken care of. The stained glass windows are to be put in the next day and the organ has been taken down from the choir loft and transported to its new home. We are in the process of finalizing the cement pours and the pews have arrived. We cannot move items, however, until we receive a Certificate of Occupancy from the city. Plans are being completed for our “last Mass” to be celebrated on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 P.M. After the Mass some items will be removed and taken over to the new church with perhaps a brief prayer service followed by social time in the new parish hall. Plans are well under way for the dedication Mass which is to be held Sunday, August 23 at 9:00 A.M. (the only Mass that weekend). We will enjoy a social time afterward in the parish hall with fresh fruit and breakfast sweets. Fr. Chris will ask people to help in various capacities for both.

The meeting concluded with prayer and a reminder that we will meet on Thurs., September 3 at 7:30 probably at the new church facility.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Kordick, Sec.
Thank You as we begin this Journey Together

Thank you to all who planned, contemplated, and dreamed. Thank you to all who drew plans, built, and decided. Thank you to all who packed, carried, and moved. Thank you to all who attended, spoke, and sang. Thank you to all who hoped, prayed, and believed. Thank you for making St. Joseph’s Catholic Church a place of worship, fellowship, and stewardship. Thank you for listening and responding with the love and selfless service of Jesus. May God’s blessings be upon this new church building and all who have worked so diligently.

What a glorious month August was! From the poignant and moving last Mass in the old church on the 18th, to the uplifting and awe-inspiring dedication on the 23rd, the music ministry has been very busy. Thanks to the following singers and musicians who put in extra long hours in preparation for these historical and Spirit-filled events:

Marcia Sparks, Pam Palmer, Karen Pommier, Joan Loftus, Mary Sents, Denise Conoan, Bricia Vallago, Mary Kordick, Jana Corkrean, Nancy Ivers, Charlie Kordick, Doug Nelson, Joe Tiernan, Dave Sullivan, Larry Lantz, Greg Kordick, Kate Sullivan, Lene Couture, Malorie Sullivan, Viki Conoan, Dave LaGrange, Karen Conoan, and Terry Cowman.

Their families also deserve much gratitude for sharing their loved ones with the larger St. Joseph family, especially with the added practices over the last couple of months!

And finally, thanks to the members of St. Joseph’s for the support you have given the music ministry. And now with the beautiful new worship space, we look forward to continuing to glorify God through music and to enhance the worship experience.

As always, you’re welcome to take part in the music ministry. Check out the St. Joseph web site for details, or feel free to contact Teresa Kordick at 321-0825 (terkord@msn.com) with any questions.

Thank you to all who helped move the Atrium supplies and furniture to the new church. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Teresa Hoffelmeyer
My Dear Friends in Christ,

At the core of the Catholic Church is our mission to evangelize. Evangelization is not simply about reaching out to the un-churched or to those whose faith is something other than our own. Evangelization is an on-going process of deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ and “making Jesus Christ known and loved in our time by choosing to live the Gospel in every moment.”

The process of evangelization is life-long. At various times in our lives we are called to conversion; to turn back to God and renew our faith and fine tune our hearts so that they more closely mirror that of Jesus.

We are beginning a two year process of evangelization and renewal called “On a Journey Together,” in the diocese as a means for us as the Church of Des Moines to ready ourselves for the celebration of our one-hundredth anniversary in 2011. This process will allow us to rediscover in small faith groups within our parishes how we are:

Awakening to Christ  
Following Christ  
Living in Christ  
Witnessing to Christ

It is my hope that you will participate fully in this four-phase opportunity to grow and be renewed in faith. Your parish will be providing opportunities for small groups to meet at various times and locations that are convenient for all. These locations may be at the parish, in the homes of members of your community, or at local gathering places like coffee shops and bookstores.

Whatever the location or time of day that you gather, know that I hold you in prayer and trust in your prayers for me as we embark “On a Journey Together.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates  
Bishop of Des Moines

Evangelization Prayer

Holy God,
Fill our hearts with the fire of your love.
Awaken us, Holy Spirit,
to witness to the presence of Jesus in every moment of our lives.
Renew us, Lord,
so that our homes, parishes,
communities and world are transformed
into your kingdom on earth, where peace and justice reign.
Amen

On a Journey Together
Preparing to Celebrate Our 100th Anniversary in 2011

The Diocese of Des Moines is kicking off preparations for its 100th anniversary in 2011 by inviting all Catholics in its 23 counties to be a part of “On a Journey Together,” a four-part process of evangelization and renewal being introduced at all 82 parishes in the diocese this fall. Thousands of people across central and southwest Iowa will be involved in the small group, faith-sharing opportunity at a grassroots level. Already, more than 700 people have participated in pilot parishes with positive results.

Parishioner gatherings will constitute the beginning and end of each session with five small faith-sharing group gatherings in between. The sessions begin this Fall, followed by sessions in the Spring and Fall of 2010 and Spring 2011. During the small group gatherings, people examine the Gospels, Church teachings and share experiences as they seek to intensify their faith.

Relationships among parishioners involved in the small group gatherings are expected to grow stronger as people explore their faith together, said Cheryl Fournier, diocesan Director of Adult Faith Formation and coordinator of this evangelization process. The result should not only be growth in faith for individuals, but stronger faith communities, she said.

The first session, beginning after Labor Day in most parishes, focuses on awakening one’s relationship with Jesus and finding words to describe it. The second session, in Spring 2010, is a call to discipleship, or a better understanding of what following Jesus means. The outcome anticipated is a conversion among people as they realize what the Good News is about. The third session, in Fall 2010, calls on people to live in Christ through the Church and Her sacraments. The fourth session, in Spring 2011, calls on participants to become witnesses as the Body of Christ. It will encourage people to act not as lone agents, but to realize their role in the Church as members of the one body as we seek to witness to values that represent the core of our beliefs.

The centennial celebration will culminate with a large gathering in Fall 2011. The evangelization process is expected to continue in parishes beyond the centennial celebration through ongoing small-group gatherings and through outreach in the greater community as we continue to grow in the ways of Jesus.

A Process of Evangelization and Renewal in the Diocese of Des Moines

To join a small faith sharing group or to volunteer as a facilitator, please call Sharon Lawson at 462-4677 or Sami Heithoff at 462-4792.
St. Mary Family Center
St. Mary Family Center assists families with basic necessities like food, clothing and diapers. More than 1,200 infants and children receive assistance with diapers each month. If you would like to host a diaper drive contact Susie Paloma at 515-262-7290. Diapers in sizes 4,5,6 are needed as well as baby wipes, infant formula and baby food.

Catholic Social Teaching and Health Care:
According to the Catholic Bishops of the United States, the current health care system is in need of fundamental reform. To learn about Catholic teaching on health care in more detail, read the full statement by the United States Catholic Bishops, A Framework for Comprehensive Health Care Reform, at usccb.org/sdwp/national/comprehensive.shtml.

Hispanic Pastoral Commission
Bishop Richard Pates formed the Hispanic Pastoral Commission last year, with bilingual representatives of several parishes on board to help him address the pastoral needs of Spanish-speaking Catholics in the diocese in central and southwest Iowa.

As a result of the commission’s work, one man who will be ordained a priest in El Salvador in October will begin serving the Diocese of Des Moines in January, 2010. In addition, a man from El Salvador and a man in Columbia are studying for the priesthood with the intention of serving the Diocese of Des Moines after their ordination.

Locally, Father Lazarus Kirigia is studying Spanish to serve the people of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. Father Paul Koch will settle in Council Bluffs this year after returning from Bolivia and will celebrate Mass in Spanish for the Council Bluffs community.

Volunteer Opportunity
This September 5-12 Des Moines Area JustFaith will be headed to New Orleans. Our group is looking for people to help with drywall, painting, installing insulation, carpentry, electricity, plumbing, flooring and landscaping. If you are interested in joining on our 7th trip to support the rebuilding efforts please contact Celeste Egger @ 274-6483 or eggerj@mchsi.com.

Adoption Workshop
A New Beginning, Catholic Charities Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling Program, invites you to explore our Infant Adoption Program on Sept. 12 at 601 Grand Ave. in Des Moines. Catholic Charities is proud to provide adoption services for adoptive parents, birth parents, and adoptees. At this time we are opening our infant adoption program to a limited number of couples responding to this invitation. Interested families will first need to register to attend the ‘Opportunities in Adoption Workshop’. To register for this workshop or if you have any other questions, please call Maggie DeWitte Adoption Coordinator at Catholic Charities 515-237-5016.

Want to visit holy sites around the world? Visit www.thecatholictour.com for pilgrimage information.

Check out Bishop Pates on the radio. The show will be moving to a 10 a.m. timeslot on Fridays beginning in September so the show can be carried live both on KWKY and KVSS. The Bishop encourages people to call his show with questions. The number is 515-223-1150.

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(The following is a general-purpose prayer to Saint Joseph that can be used when there is need in money matters, for housing, or when death is near.)

_Please pray this prayer asking St. Joseph to intercede for the successful sale of our Green St. property._

**A PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH**

Oh, Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong,  
Oh, Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, so that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.  

Saint Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen.