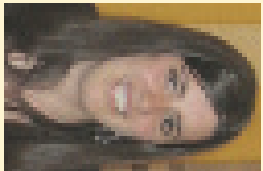


MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



ELIZABETH MORIARTY
Director of Evangelization

As of May 2007, Elizabeth has graduated from the Master of Divinity Program at Notre Dame. While in graduate school, she worked as an Assistant Rector in Breen-Phillips Hall as a pastoral counselor, as a chaplain with Hospice and as an intern at the Gender Relations Center. Graduating from Notre Dame with a BA in Theology (2000), she helped out with the RCIA program (as a team member with Tracy Rodenborn), and studied abroad in Jerusalem. After graduation, Elizabeth's first job was with Samaritan Inns addictions recovery program in Washington, D.C., where she served as a resident manager in a transitional home for women in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Next, she spent a year and a half in Santa Ana, CA, at the Orange County Catholic Worker doing weekly jail visits and bible studies as a chaplain in the diocesan ministry to prisoners in county jails.

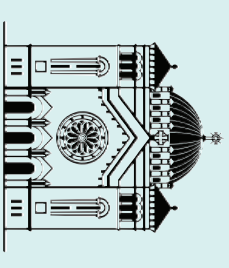
She comes to Saint Clement honored to be following in Tracy's footsteps, excited to be part of a community deeply rooted in the sacramental life of the Church, and hoping to have fun!



KENNA BREWER
Director of Children and Family Catechesis

Summer blessings to all Saint Clement families! I am Kenna Brewer and will begin as Director of Children and Family Catechesis in July. I come by way of Orlando and Notre Dame (where I studied Theology and Art History) and am currently ministering at St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. I am finishing the Echo program (www.nd.edu/~cei) through Notre Dame, and will be happy to complete the Masters exam this summer.

But most importantly, I am counting down the days until I serve your faith-filled community! I am excited about what is, and the hope of things to come. My prayers for y'all will continue; I ask God to share His peace and sunshine this day.



Saint Clement Church
 642 W. Deming Place
 Chicago, IL 60614

spring newsletter

clement newsletter

spring 2007

Our Parish Moves Forward During This Time of Transition

Dear Parishioners,

In recent months Chicago has been buzzing about the possibilities of hosting the Olympics in 2016. Such a long term venture is clearly in the spirit of Daniel Burnham's, "Make no small plans." I would like to think that at Saint Clement we also want to "make no small plans." So, despite the parish being in a transitional time, **our parish is moving ahead with plans to strengthen our mission.** We have too much important work to be done to tarry.



During this past year, many of you have spent hours focused on the parish survey and its results. The survey has provided parish leaders with important information about who we are and what we are about as a Christian community.

We have listened and planned based on the survey and now are translating the information into some **important new parish initiatives.** Let me name three important ones among many others. New plans are afoot to strengthen our efforts at being a **welcoming community.** New efforts are being put forth in the **liturgy**, especially in terms of the range of music at different liturgies to help us worship better. And finally we have hired some wonderful **new staff members** who will help us take the next steps in terms of family faith formation, evangelization, and strengthening our young adult community.

In this next period of time you will welcome a new pastor along with a number of new staff. I know you will help them get on board and tap their gifts and talents to keep Saint Clement vibrant.

FIND IT INSIDE

- Saint Clement Strategic Plan & Survey Results.....2
- All Ages Liturgies.....5
- New Welcoming Space.....6
- Reaching Out and Sharing With Chicago.....7
- Meet New Staff.....8

Fr. Tom Hickey, Pastor

THE SAINT CLEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Over a year ago, Saint Clement parish undertook a project to create a strategic plan. Our hope was to define our goals and priorities and to form a strategy to reach those goals. A Strategic Planning Committee was created, made up of both staff and parishioners.

The committee began by defining the questions that needed to be addressed:

- Where are we trying to go?
- What are we really good at?
- What could competitors do better than we can?
- What might help or hurt our efforts to get there?

From the initial meetings, we simmered down the issues to three key questions:

- Who are we?
- What do we stand for?
- How do we/should we minister to our parish?

From these questions and the input from a number of focus groups, a parish survey was prepared.

The survey contained 69 questions related to:

- Mass and parish attendance
- Connectedness/involvement
- Views of Saint Clement
- Perspectives of faith lives and needs
- Satisfaction levels and improvement opportunities
- Children and schools

Special thanks to

Ann Domenella, Viva Bartkus and **Betsy Bohlen** for sharing their extraordinary talent in creating the survey and compiling the results.

We also thank the rest of the **Strategic Planning Committee**

For their work on the newsletter, we thank

- Carol Deely, Mary Cele Doyle, Lori Hardwick, Fr. Tom Hickey, John Huston, Marnie McHale, Tom Meyers, Linda Myers, Anne Rog, Nancy Schwider, Laurence Woznicki.
- Kim Dahlborn and Joanna Krzynski.

SURVEY RESULTS

834 people took the time to fill in the survey. We feel the results gave us excellent information regarding how our parishioners think about our parish. The amount of time you took to give us comments was invaluable in understanding how we can continue to improve Saint Clement. Here is what we have learned:

We Are Proud Catholics

Survey participants had many comments regarding what made them proud to be Catholic.

Heritage/Traditions

- “The tradition, the rituals, the mystery”
- “The Mass, the Universal church throughout 2000 years”
- “It is the Church Christ founded”
- “Amazing heritage and people”
- “Intellectual tradition – incarnation and sacramental theology – real spiritual depth”
- “The social teachings of the Church”

“The strong traditions of the church – availability of worship, holiness of laity, priests”

“The long tradition and community. The chapel community. Many people I know at Saint Clement”

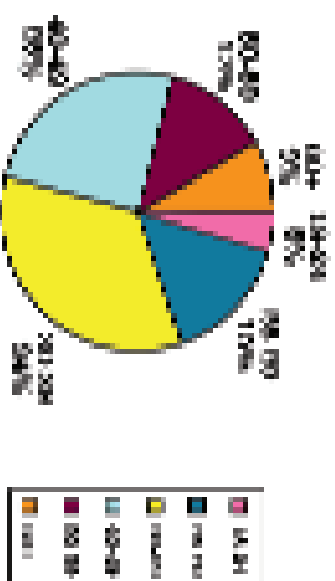
Universality/Belongingness

“An international belonging – we are all connected”

Strong Values

- “The stated core values of Catholicism embody my sense of Christ’s values”
- “Our ecumenical efforts and what Pope John Paul II has done and stood for”
- “Despite its portrayal, the church does so much good for the world”
- “The community of very giving and socially concerned people”
- “Our respect for human life – our belief in Jesus’ presence in others”
- “Strong stand on pro-life issues & charity”
- “Strong Catholics who live the gospel – good basis for living a spiritual/ethical life”
- “Writings of the saints”

Survey Participants By Age



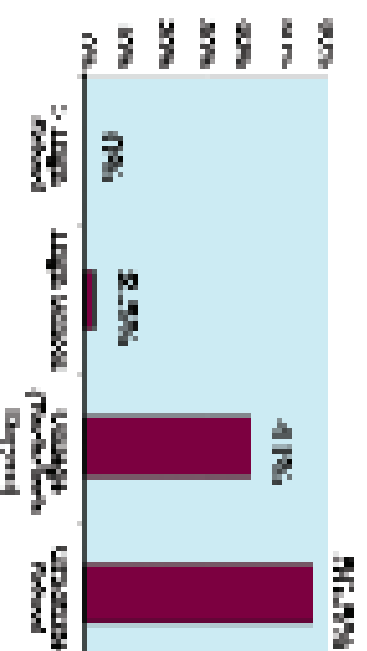
We Are Satisfied

93% of our survey takers are **very or somewhat satisfied** with Saint Clement overall

84% feel **very or somewhat connected** to Saint Clement

78% describe Saint Clement as, “Just right” - not too conservative or too liberal

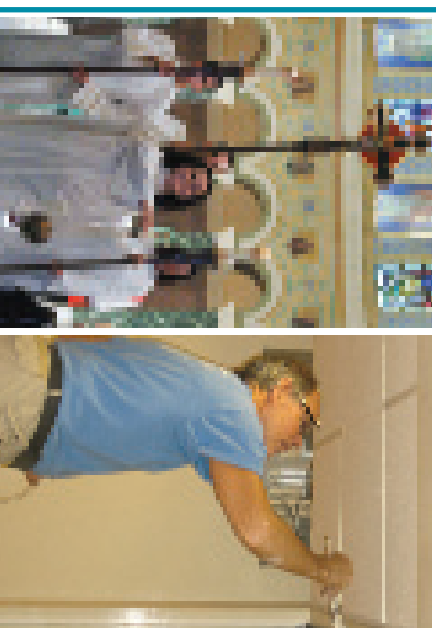
Highest Education Level Reached



We Are Involved

62% feel **very or somewhat involved** at Saint Clement

73% are **very or somewhat satisfied** with their **faith life and spiritual development**



The biggest obstacles in our faith development are:

65% say life is hectic and they do not have enough time

46% do not spend enough time reading Scripture

25% do not discuss faith often enough with others

21% cannot fit Saint Clement programs into their schedule

The top two issues facing us today:

69% Balancing our work and personal life

61% Improving our faith life

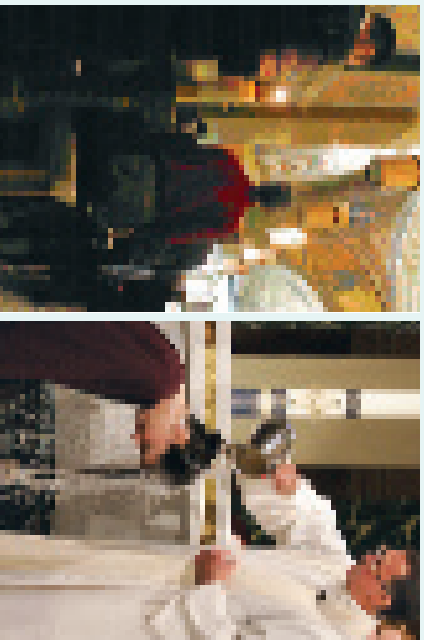


SURVEY RESULTS

continued

We Are Committed Catholics

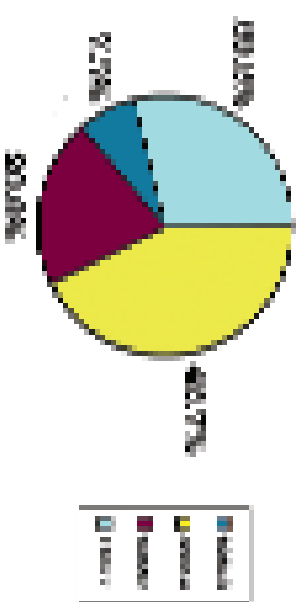
- 68%** have been an “Active Catholic” since birth
- 75%** feel very or somewhat connected to the universal Catholic Church
- 55%** feel most connected to Catholicism
- 22%** to Christianity
- 21%** to Saint Clement
- 63%** say that the role of the larger, universal Catholic Church is very or somewhat integral in their faith life



We are moderately, but not very familiar with the teachings of the Catholic Church, such as:

- the doctrine and beliefs
- social teachings
- reproductive issues
- end of life issues
- capital punishment
- divorce and annulment

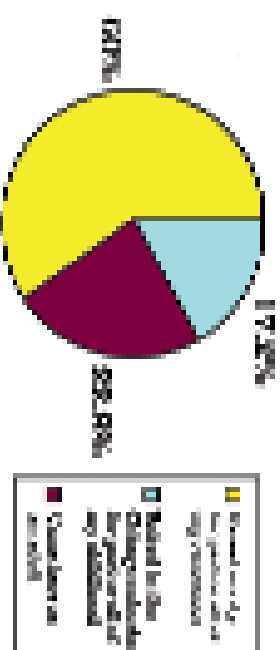
Survey Participants by Zip Code



We Believe in the Power of Mass

- 75%** are extremely positive about the overall Mass experience
- 70%** enjoy the welcoming environment and sense of community at Saint Clement
- 70%** attend Mass because it gives them a sense of belonging
- 68%** feel it is important to worship with a faith community
- 65%** believe Mass means a lot to them
- 65%** think Mass helps them live a Christian life

What Is Your Connection to Chicago?



We Face Difficulties

Survey participants also commented on the difficulties they face with Catholicism:

Hierarchy/Disconnect between people, values, and parishes

“Rigidity/inflexibility at times – authoritarianism”
 “Need more lay involvement in decision making throughout the structure”

“At times the church seems as corrupt as the rest of institutions”

“The recent scandals and how the leaders handled them”

“When the church meddles in politics”
 “Leaders who seem out of touch with the American experience”

Exclusion/Superiority

“When people seem to be excluded by the church”
 “Priesthood being limited to men and celibacy being mandatory”
 “Role of women”

“Divorce and remarriage teachings”

“Overemphasis on sexual sins”

“I don’t understand the church’s seeming reluctance to accept gays”

The Next Steps

The results of the survey have been shared and analyzed by parish staff and leadership. Over the next few months, committees and councils will be discussing the results that pertain to them and identify new initiatives that reflect the responses to the survey. They have been asked to consider the following questions:

How can you and your parish group help facilitate the pastoral transition?

How can you and your group use this information to help minister to the parish?

What should you and your group keep doing? Do differently?

LITURGY FOR ALL AGES: In Response to the Survey

Liturgy is a living thing, celebrated by the assembly, not just the priest. Responses and comments from our parish survey affirmed the love and hunger people bring to our Sunday liturgy, and reflected parishioners’ desire to more fully experience the Mass. In response to survey feedback, the staff is collaborating to make subtle changes to our weekend Masses in the hopes of more effectively engaging worshippers of all ages.

Changes to Enhance Liturgical Experience

Our music team is researching hymns which are inviting for all to sing and exploring broader use of choirs and musicians in the upstairs church. Training for Liturgical Ministers has been reorganized into a more convenient schedule, making it easier for people to volunteer as Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Servers. Beginning in the fall, we will also provide more opportunities for parishioners to enhance their understanding of the Mass through creative teaching aids.

More Visible Roles for Children

In response to the increase in children attending Sunday Mass, the Liturgy Coordinator is using a consultant on family liturgy to customize various elements of the 9:30 Masses and institute ways in which children can play more visible roles alongside adults. We are also fashioning an overall vision for how the Chapel and Church, Family Mass and Children’s Liturgy of the Word, can better compliment our liturgical journey through the seasons.

Our Hope for You, the Parishioner

Saint Clement Church has a proud tradition of strong liturgy where people sing with full voice, enthusiastically participate in the Mass parts and serve in numerous liturgical ministries. It is our hope that by enhancing select elements of Masses, the entire assembly will worship with full heart and understanding of our sacred liturgy, the bedrock of our lives as Catholic Christians and our lives at Saint Clement Church. That brings us to you, the parishioners. “All the faithful should be led to take that full, conscious, and active part in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the nature of the liturgy.” (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican Council II).

WE REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER

CREATING NEW SPACE FOR GATHERING AND WELCOMING

We are thrilled to announce that this summer we will begin renovating the area behind the rectory and Fahey Center to create a new space for gathering and welcoming our parishioners. This project will include a widening and enhancement of the driveway that is east of the Fahey Center, installing electronic fencing off the alley entrance and burying the power lines in the back.

Where Did the Money Come From?

A very generous donor has offered to pay for Saint Clement to renovate the driveway and back courtyard area. As you can see from the picture below, the area will include many new trees and plants. Stamped concrete will be used for the main gathering space. While the area will still be used for parking, it will also be available for any number of gatherings.

When Will the Project Be Completed?

Construction will begin the second week in June and be completed in time for late summer and fall events.

What Will We Gain?

Our hope is that this new, beautiful space will enhance the ministries we already have and give us new ideas for gathering and hospitality.



The new courtyard will be located behind the church. To the left of the courtyard is the Fahey Center, and to the right is the garage.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY BEYOND SERVICE DAY

Few would disagree that Clement Service Day was a most rewarding experience. Many commented that they really felt good being "able to give something back." However we name it, **this is stewardship**. We are called to be stewards not just one day of the year, but as a life practice. While life schedules and family commitments don't always allow for a day of service, there are many opportunities to continue the spirit and practice of that day throughout the year. Here are a few suggestions to keep Service Day alive throughout the year:

PRAY each day. Give thanks for the gifts you have been given and ask God's blessings on those less fortunate.

ACT - Become more aware of the social structures that contribute to poverty, poor housing conditions, lack of care for the mentally ill, homelessness, and write to your congressmen, aldermen or work with a neighborhood organization to improve conditions of people in "the other Chicago."

SUPPORT organizations with which Saint Clement has established a relationship.

- ◆ Visit **Café Too** on N. Sheridan Rd. where Inspiration Corporation has trained homeless, formerly unemployed persons to run a fine restaurant (www.inspirationcorp.org)
- ◆ Have breakfast or lunch at **Misericordia's** restaurant, order from their bakery or check out their garden products (www.misericordia.org)
- ◆ Consider ordering stationery or paper products or jewelry from **Deborah's Place's** [Womancraft Inc.](http://www.womancraft.net) (www.womancraft.net)

HELPING THE POOR AND HUNGRY IN A CONVENIENT WAY: Chicago Shares Program

How many times have you passed by a homeless person who asked for help? You may have wanted to lend a hand but were hesitant to open your wallet or purse on the street. Maybe you had suspicions that your money would be used for drugs or alcohol. Now, **there's a way to give without any worries**. Chicago Shares vouchers are a convenient, safe and constructive way to provide nourishing meals to hungry people.

Over a Decade of Sharing - Since 1995 Saint Clement has participated in the Chicago Shares program and sold approximately 24,000 shares.

How it Works - Purchase a \$5 book of Chicago Shares on the plaza after Mass and offer them to needy people when they ask for money. They can redeem them for food at places such as the Golden Cup Restaurant or Dominick's or for basic necessities at participating stores. Chicago Shares cannot be redeemed for cash, alcohol or tobacco products. You can also buy Chicago Shares for the parish office, which will hand them out on an as-needed basis to the needy that seek help at Saint Clement.

Feel the Reward of

Giving - Many members of the parish community have had successful experiences using Chicago Shares. Parishioner Tom McKenna states, "I buy Chicago Shares and give them to the needy for a lot of reasons. I have never gone hungry in my life, thanks to the many gifts that I have received. When I see someone who is struggling to obtain the basic necessities of life, like food and shelter, I feel a sense of obligation to share some of my own good fortune. It's just a small way of saying thanks."

Service Day is one day—stewardship is a lifetime!

VOLUNTEER -

There are ongoing needs at most of the agencies served on Service Day. Any would welcome your continued involvement as individuals, or as part of the Saint Clement Donate-a-Day ministry.



Summer Sell Dates

Don't let the whole summer pass without taking this simple and safe step to help the needy in our community. Look for the above Chicago Shares sign on the plaza on these upcoming weekends:

June 24 - 25
July 28 - 29
August 25 - 26