

Jammin' with Jesus Journal

February 17, 2008

The Official Youth Group of Our Lady of Hungary Parish

Hello everyone,

It has been awhile since we last wrote about the adventures of Jammin' with Jesus (JWJ), but that certainly does not mean that JWJ has been inactive. On the contrary, we've been BUSY!

We're still riding high on the energy that came from celebrating our first Christmas together. As you may recall, JWJ "adopted" two neighborhood families for Christmas. We invited parishioners to help us get gifts for these families, both of whom have young children.

JWJ—and the families we adopted—simply cannot thank parishioners enough for the overwhelming support you showed! JWJ Headquarters *overflowed* with presents, ribbons and bows, and festively colored wrapping paper the night we held our "Wrap Party" a few days before Christmas. We had a great time wrapping the gifts and even better time taking the presents to the families and seeing the looks on their faces as we flooded their living rooms with presents.

Of course, Christmas is not about toys and clothes, but all about the intangibles—about faith, hope, generosity, and, of course, Jesus. Our goal with this gift drive was to share our blessings with families who currently face some challenges, to give them some of the hope that came with that first Christmas so long ago, to provide them with another glimpse of how Jesus dwells among us in so many ways.

In today's world—with all the news coverage of war and mass shootings—it's comforting

to know that there is still much good among us. And fortunately for all of us at Our Lady of Hungary, we don't have to look much further than the kids of our youth group to find that goodness.

Again, a great big THANKYOU to you all!

Heather, Ida, and Edie

This edition of the JWJ Journal is sponsored by

Denise & Steve Domonkos

~Our Mission Statement~

We, the Jammin' with Jesus youth group of Our Lady of Hungary Parish, wish to bring kindness and friendship to our community through the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Make me love not only my friends, but my enemies as well in imitation of Jesus who offered Himself on the Cross for all human beings.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Because feeling connected is so important for young people—and for people of any age—each JWJ Journal features a young parishioner alongside an “older” parishioner in an effort to help bridge the generation gap. If you would like to share your story with JWJ, please contact Heather at (574) 855.0898 or at heathermezosi@yahoo.com

David Leemreis
JWJ Founding Member

Age: 14 years old in March 2008

How long you've attended OLH: 9 years

Favorite Teacher at OLH: Mrs. Jay

Favorite Subject: English

Most important lesson you've learned at OLH: How to make friends and keep them

Hobbies: Exploring the woods

Favorite TV Show: That '70s Show

Favorite kinds of music: Anything but country

Claim to fame: Mitzi Madar's great-grandson

JWJ Remembers...

~Julia Sayer~

Loyal OLH parishioner and enthusiastic reader of the JWJ Journal

May she have a great time “jammin’ with Jesus” in heaven!

Mary “Mitzi” Madar
Long-time OLH Parishioner

When Mitzi Madar says she's a “long-time parishioner” she means it: she and her now late husband, Frank Madar, joined OLH in 1937—some 70 years ago! Moreover, at age 93, Mitzi also proudly claims the distinction of being the oldest known person on Catalpa Avenue.

I sat down to talk with Mitzi recently and she had a lot of interesting memories to share of OLH. Though her childhood years were spent at the former St. Mary's of the Assumption Parish in South Bend, Mitzi's family's roots run deeply through our own church and school. For example, Mitzi's husband and father-in-law dug the basement for the school in the mid 1920s using shovels, wheel barrels, and their own sturdy hands. Mitzi's two daughters, Maureen and Roseann, both graduated from the school, as did all six of Mitzi's grandchildren and two of her great-grandchildren.

Mitzi remembers how some things were just a little different when she first joined OLH. At the parish festival, for example, people in the 21st century can win electronics, toys, possibly even a car. In the 1930s, however, Mitzi recalls walking home a live chicken and turkey as winnings from the festival. The feathered friends eventually ended up on the dinner table, but not before the turkey got a little revenge. Mitzi laughed as she recalled how, just before her husband Frank slaughtered the bird, it “crapped on his shoe!”

Spotlight...continued

She also fondly relates how she used to walk down Catalpa for Saturday evening Mass. Though the walk could easily take under five minutes, it often took Mitzi an hour and a half to traverse the two blocks because she would stop to visit with neighbors who were out tending to their yards.

Along with such light moments with friends and family, OLH has also most importantly been the place that cultivated the inspiring faith that continues to sustain Mitzi. Since 2000, arthritis has rendered her homebound. But that certainly doesn't mean that Mitzi has stagnated in her faith. Her daughter, **Roseann Smorse**, with whom Mitzi lives, notes that Mitzi probably has a more vibrant prayer and church life now than ever before.

Indeed, Fr. Lawrence comes to Mitzi's on the first Friday of each month to hear her confession, and a Eucharistic minister, usually **Ray and Shirley Sommer**, bring Mitzi communion every Sunday morning. The situation led to a rekindling and deepening of the friendship between Mitzi, Roseann, Ray, and Shirley. Roseann noted that she had known Shirley and Ray for years. However, Roseann says that it "was through the presence of Christ" in the Eucharist that old neighbors reunited, helping all of them to grow in faith and friendship not just with each other, but with God.

The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) also helps Mitzi feel connected to her faith. She watches the Mass daily and also tunes into the rosary broadcasts. In addition, Mitzi rises at 4:00am each morning to say about an hour and a half of prayers on her own before breakfast. She is particularly good friends with St. Gerard. Anytime family or friends have a problem that could use some prayer, Mitzi is happy to call upon her connections with "her saint."

Mitzi notes that she has always had kids around, be they her own daughters, her grandchildren, or her great-children and their friends. A few of the JWJ members (friends

of **David Leemreis**, her 14 year old great-grandson) hang out at Mitzi and Roseann's, especially during the summer. Hopefully, Mitzi's devout faith will positively impact their relationships with God now and in years to come.

JWJ in the Headlines!

JWJ recently got a bit of publicity for our good works. The South Bend Tribune ran a front page story on us in the South Side Community local section on February 1, 2008. In addition, Today's Catholic featured the same story in their February 7, 2008 issue. JWJ will soon have a bulletin board in the vestibule of the church to display these news articles, along with other announcements. Be sure to check it out!

Also, the voice of JWJ's very own **Cassidy Richard** can be heard on local radio spots for the "You Can Lend a Hand" campaign for area Catholic schools.

The JWJ kids are representing OLH so well! For those of you who might want to see them in person—or perhaps obtain an autograph😊—our next public appearance will be on Friday, February 22 at the Holy Name Society Fish Fry. We'll be serving at that event from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Look for us in our professionally printed "Jammin' with Jesus" T-Shirts! Be sure to come up and say hello, we'd love to meet you if we haven't already!



JWJ's First Year in Review...

Look How Busy We've Been!!

JWJ has only been around since May '07. Here's a list of all we did in just eight short months...

- Sold popcorn at the July Parish Festival (we gave ½ of the proceeds to the festival).
- Welcomed the Diocese Jubilee Cross to OLH, then represented our parish by escorting the cross to St. Jude's.
- Held a profitable bake sale in August
- Served at the August Holy Name Fish Fry
- Served at the October Taste of Hungary
- Started a parish prayer chain
- Led OLH's efforts to collect blankets for St. Vincent de Paul's Blanket Drive
- Adopted two neighborhood families for Christmas—a HUGE success!
- Financially contributed to Fr. Lawrence's order
- Financially contributed to OLH's efforts with the Annual Bishop's Appeal
- Hosted a JWJ Open House for parishioners
- Brought the Diocese Parish History Photo Exhibit to OLH
- Helped decorate the church for Christmas

Our parish has much to be proud of in our young people. We hope that you continue to do your part to support us in 2008.



Sponsor a JWJ Journal

Sponsoring a JWJ Journal is wonderful way to honor a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary. The cost is \$25.00, all of which goes to our church. Call Kathy at the rectory for more information at (574) 287.1700.

Call for Members!!!

Know of a teen (13-19 years old) who might like to join the faith, friendship, and fun that JWJ has to offer?

Currently, our meetings take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at JWJ Headquarters (OLH church basement, Bruce Street entrance).

We're an energetic bunch who would love to make new friends. We seek to bring members to a closer friendship with God through readings, discussions, movies, service, and prayer.

Don't hesitate to contact Heather at (574) 855.0898 or at heathermezosi@yahoo.com for more information.

