

# Jammin' with Jesus Journal

September 16, 2007

## ~The Official Youth Group of Our Lady of Hungary Parish~

*Hello everyone!*

*Summer may be winding down, but we at Jammin' with Jesus (JWJ) are happy to report that we're gaining more and more upward momentum as we head into the beautiful fall season.*

*In this edition of the JWJ Journal, we'll tell you all about our adventures in fish frying with the OLH Holy Name Society, our first bake sale, and our ongoing renovation of the St. Stephen's Room in the church basement. We're also planning our first holiday festivities as a group to celebrate the fall season, Thanksgiving, and, of course, Christmas.*

*We're happy that parishioners had such a positive response to our previous JWJ Journal. The entire group is grateful to those of you who contributed talent, money, odds and ends for our new room, and most of all, your prayers. We certainly hope to keep your confidence.*

*Indeed, Pope Benedict XVI continues to call for increased attention to the young people of the Church, a spotlight that presents many challenges and opportunities for everyone, young and "old" alike. We hope that this Journal renews your confidence in young people and also motivates you to share your gifts with them.*

*To that end, while the JWJ Journal will focus mostly on reporting about the youth group's activities, we also hope to bridge the generation gap by inviting parishioners to share their life experiences through the*

*"Spotlight On..." section and through the newly suggested "Coming Home" feature. We're also considering having parishioners come talk to JWJ members at some of our meetings to share stories about the role of faith (how it has grown and/or been challenged) in their lives.*

*Among many of the younger people who have fallen away from Catholicism, one of the factors they often say contributed to their departure was their feeling of a lack of community at their parishes. So many feel that they do not really have a voice at their churches, that no one really cares about their presence or the talents they have to offer. JWJ hopes to do our part to ensure that parishioners are more aware of the very many great capabilities that the kids of OLH have been blessed with.*

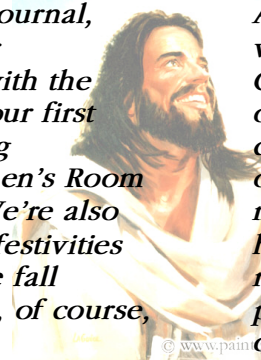
*As we mentioned last time, if you have any suggestions for activities for JWJ or know of someone who might like to join us, don't hesitate to contact Heather at (574) 288.6948 or at [heathermezosi@yahoo.com](mailto:heathermezosi@yahoo.com)*

*Peace and Blessings,  
Heather, Ida, and Edie*

*~Our Mission Statement~*

*We, the Jammin' with Jesus Youth Group of Our Lady of Hungary, 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 Christ who through You offered Himself on the Cross for all human beings.*





## SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Each JWJ Journal features a “spotlight” on a youth group member and a parishioner. Feeling connected and valued is so important for young people—and for folks of any age for that matter. We hope that this section of the Journal will help parishioners—no matter what their age—to bridge the generation gap and get to know each other a little better.

### *Joseph Molnar Jammin’ with Jesus member*

*Age: 15*

*Siblings: Two sisters (Nichole and Sarah)*

*Current School: Marian High School*

*Favorite Foods: Steak and Hot Wings*

*Hobbies: Basketball and Mountain Biking*

*Participate in any sports? Track*

*Favorite TV shows: Scrubs*

*Kinds of music you listen to: Rock and  
Alternative*

*Favorite subject and why: History. I like  
learning about the past*

*Career you might want when older:  
Politician*

*How long you went to OLH School:  
Kindergarden-8th*

*Favorite teacher from OLH and why:  
Mr. Wroblewski. He showed me you  
could like school.*

*What did you like best about going to  
school at OLH? the small classes*

*What was the most important lesson that  
you learned at OLH that helps you in life  
today? to never jump to conclusions  
about people*

**Say a prayer for**



**Ashley Leemreis**

**as she recovers from a broken collarbone**

*Dorothy Weisser*

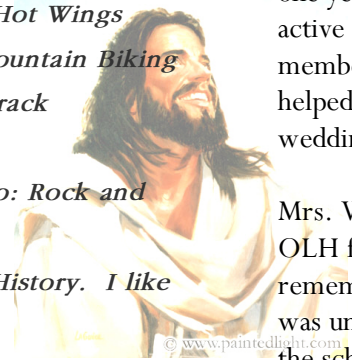
### *Longtime OLH Parishioner*

Dorothy Weisser married her now late husband, Emil, in St. Matthew Cathedral in 1946. Later that year, she and her husband began attending Our Lady of Hungary. Sixty-one years later, Dorothy is happy to still be active at OLH. She attends mass weekly, is a member of the St. Anne’s Society, and has helped in the OLH kitchen for countless weddings, funerals, and festivals.

Mrs. Weisser has many fond memories of OLH from the 1940s and 1950s. She remembers that while our current church was under construction, masses were held in the school, and parish festivals took place at St. Anthony’ Hall on Indiana Avenue.

Her sons Jerry and Michael both attended OLH. She recalls how the school once had 900 students, with classes so large that they spilled over into the church basement (where the current JWJ room is). (Her son Jerry’s first communion class had 90 children in it)!

Now, at 88, Dorothy enjoys working in her garden, watching Lawrence Welk Show reruns on Saturday nights, and listening to classical church hymns on a channel she gets through her satellite dish. She has a cat named Trouble—a stray she recently adopted—to keep her company while watching TV. She also has a grandson, Brandon, 16, who attends Marian.



## Spotlight On...(continued)

Dorothy also enjoys visits from her family and friends.

I (Heather) have lived next to Mrs. Weisser for 25 years, but an interesting tidbit that I never knew about her family came up when I talked with her recently: did you know that in one of the panels of the large flower stained glass window (the one on the front of the church facing Calvert St.) there is an image of Mary Weisser, the late child of Dorothy's brother-in-law Frank? Mary died as a child of an enlarged heart and Msgr. Sabo had a picture of little Mary placed in the window to honor her memory.

As for the youth of today, Dorothy hopes that they use their energy to keep OLH going strong for many more decades to come.



**“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”** ~John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35<sup>th</sup> president of the United States

Thanks to **St. Pius X Catholic Church** in Granger for donating a TV, VCR, DVD player and a rolling stand to hold the equipment!

Thanks, too, to **Mary Pettit**, a member of the Pius X family, who purchased several teen centered activity books for JWJ from the recent Ave Maria Press Tent Book Sale.

Thanks to **Bill Weiger**, also from Pius X, for driving over to OLH the rolling stand for the TV with his truck.

Thanks to **Connie Klipich** and **Kathy Baugher**, loyal OLH parishioners, for their monetary donations to JWJ. Theirs were our very first funds donated to JWJ! We will use all monies wisely.

Thanks to the **OLH Holy Name Society** for donating \$100 to JWJ! **Holy Name** also generously contributed a microwave to the group.

Thanks to **Adam Richard** for donating a comfortable chair for our room.

Thanks to **Mary Leemreis** and **David Leemreis** (the latter a JWJ member) for contributing boards games, colored pencils, and crayons.

We're also grateful to **Roseann Smorse** who helped us clean up the St. Stephen's Room as we began to make it our own. Roseann also generously purchased inspirational posters and banners for the room. Thanks much!

Thanks much to **the Hegyi Family** who donated two couches, a lamp, blankets, and snacks (puffed corn treats!) to the new JWJ Room. Thanks are also in order to **Hilary Ruiz** for using her truck to haul the couches to OLH and to **Shawn Taylor and his muscles** for helping us get the furniture loaded and in place in the St. Stephen's Room. Hilary and Shawn's help was very much appreciated, especially since the heat index was well over 100 the day they moved the furniture!

Thanks to **Tassie Jaques**, an OLH alumnae, for donating an air hockey table to JWJ and to **Kristi** and **Tom Richard** for hauling the table into the JWJ Room.

## Gratitude Corner continued...

And a great big THANK YOU to everyone who took time out of their busy lives to bake items for JWJ's first bake sale—**Shirley Sommer, Mary Leemreis, Ruth Molnar, Kristi Richard, Linda Shaw, Tori Gruber, Ida Balazsi, Lisa Williams, and Roseann Smorse**. Thanks to all of you who purchased baked goods from us. We are also grateful to those of you who so very generously contributed money to JWJ without buying anything!

## The New JWJ Headquarters

People obviously have stories to tell, but if the walls of the former St. Stephen's Room could talk, they, too, would probably have some interesting tales to share.

As some of you may know, Fr. Lawrence recently gave us the go-ahead to make the St. Stephen's Room the official JWJ headquarters. Sorting through the stuff in the room was a little like rooting around a museum: we found sheet music from the '40s, lyric books from the '50s, old classroom workbooks, and even a few hardened wads of gum stuck in hidden places on the old student desks that filled the room! And we can't neglect to mention the color scheme: the purple, orange, yellow, and blue on the overhead pipes and furnace provide a trip back to the '60s!

To bring the room into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we started by moving the old sheet music and other stuff to a safe spot in the basement and began making our unique mark on our new home. **Joseph Molnar, Ashley Leemreis, David Leemreis, and Thomas Wicker** helped to clear out the old desks and vacuum the carpet. A few days later, JWJ members enthusiastically helped move two big, comfy couches into the room—no small feat considering it was one of the most swelteringly hot days of the year. We

also have some new lamps, posters, and banners to brighten the walls.

To creatively commemorate the founding members' roles with JWJ, **Cassidy Richard** came up with the idea to trace figure outlines of everyone in various poses against the wall. We're working on drawing ourselves on one wall of the room, possibly alongside the life size drawing of Jesus (done by **David Leemreis**). Certainly, JWJ Headquarters is beginning to reflect the creativity and hard work of all who have contributed to it!

We're hoping to get more furniture to make our area even homier. When the room is pretty much complete, we plan to have an open house for parishioners to come visit us. We hope to see you there!

## Adventures in Fish Frying!



Fresh off our recent successes with selling popcorn at the July Parish Festival and transporting the Jubilee Cross to and from OLH, JWJ members came out in full force to help at the August 17 Holy Name Society Fish Fry. **Eddie Leemreis** supervised **Lamyia Kindred, Thomas Wicker, Damyra Belcher, Joseph Molnar, Ashley Leemreis, David Leemreis, Theresa Shaw, Cassidy Richard, and Tori Gruber** in tending to tables to make sure that Fish Fry guests had prompt, efficient, and hospitable service. Thanks to the Holy Name Society for recognizing that JWJ has such responsible, hard working youth who are more than able to handle such a task and beautifully represent our parish!

## Our First Bake Sale

We made \$315.32 from our first bake sale, which was held after all masses on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>!!! **Tori Gruber, Cassidy**

**Bake Sale** continued...

**Richard, David Leemreis, Thomas Wicker, Joseph Molnar, Ashley Leemreis, and Theresa Shaw** helped to work the two tables full of brownies, cookies, muffins, cakes, and—thanks to **Ida Balazsi Sr.**—Hungarian kolach. The kolach went VERY quickly! We sold out of all of our items, fittingly, right after 11:00am mass. Thanks to all of you who supported us!

## The Near Future

Thankfully, the future of JWJ looks bright! The new school year brings us fresh faces, and planning our upcoming projects continues to renew our energy.

We're looking forward to, for example, celebrating autumn by going to the corn maize on Mayflower Road sometime in October. JWJ is also excited to help at the OLH Holy Name Society's "Taste of Hungary" on October 28, at which we will hopefully debut our professionally printed group T-Shirts featuring designs by JWJ member **David Leemreis** and **Kristi Richard** (Cassidy's mom).

After All Saint's Day, we'll be in "holiday mode"! We are considering adopting a local needy family for Thanksgiving by sponsoring a food drive on their behalf, and, for Christmas, we will again "adopt" a family in need through a gift collection. While JWJ members will assume the bulk of the responsibly of these drives, parishioners are invited to participate as well. From my experience, Christmas gift drives are a great way for people of all backgrounds to work together on a fun project in pursuit of a very worthy goal. That's what is in store for us for the immediate future.

In the present, though, back at JWJ Headquarters, the group is still busily at work continuing to revamp our new room, and, more importantly, deepening in friendship and faith

through activities we're doing through a book called The Faith Difference by Sr. Kieran Sawyer, S.S.N.D. The activities in the book are geared toward building community within a group by getting teens to think about and discuss their beliefs and values.

Of course, putting faith into action is important, so, by the year's end, look for JWJ to have served a meal at a homeless shelter, performed more service work to our parish, and, as an ongoing project, send "thinking of you" cards to ill and homebound parishioners. We will most certainly keep everyone posted on our service work!



Welcome Fr. Mark!!  
JWJ looks forward to getting to know and learn from you!

# Coming Home

## Stories of Reaffirmed Faith and Conversion

In this new section we invite people to share their stories of “coming home” to Catholicism. Whether you are a formerly fallen away Catholic or someone from another faith who eventually found your home in Mother Church, your story is important. Young people—and longtime adults—can especially grow in faith from you sharing your triumphs, trials, and tests of faith. So, if you have a story that you would like to share, don’t hesitate to contact Heather at (574) 288.6948 or at [heathermezosi@yahoo.com](mailto:heathermezosi@yahoo.com)

This story is by **Ida Balazsi**, a JWJ Group Leader

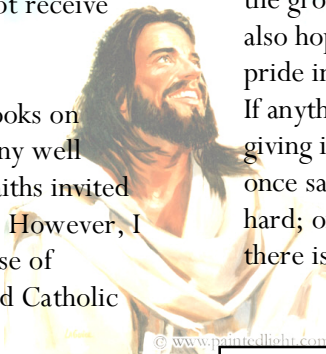
I returned to church a year and a half ago. Prior to my return, I had been a “C & E (Christmas & Easter) Catholic” since leaving Catholic grade school in 1990. As a teenager and young adult, I often felt that church wasn’t necessary and that I did not receive any benefit from attending mass.

In my late 20’s I studied many books on spirituality and Catholicism. Many well meaning friends from different faiths invited me to attend services with them. However, I never felt comfortable or the sense of belonging as I did when I attended Catholic mass.

It was by invitation of a friend that I finally returned to Our Lady. The invitation came at a time in my life when I was very busy, stressed and angry and was close to turning my back on my faith entirely. I can honestly say now that I have found great peace in attending mass and speaking with Father Lawrence. Deacon Erv’s Bible study is great and I look forward to attending each month. I feel as if I am no longer forging through life alone and encourage everyone I know to attend mass. Mass has also inspired me to volunteer at the school and church whenever

my work schedule allows.

The youth group is such a great program within the church and I am excited to be involved in its infancy. My goal is to inspire the group not to neglect their faith as I had. I also hope to encourage the group to take pride in their school, church and community. If anything, I hope they learn, as I did, that giving is far better than receiving. A friend once said to me, “Faith doesn’t have to be hard; once you give yourself to the Lord, there is nothing easier.”



### **Honor a Loved One: Sponsor a JWJ Journal**

You know how the regular church bulletin is dedicated in memory of loved ones or to commemorate a special intention, such as anniversaries? Now, for \$25.00—100% of which goes to our church—you may sponsor a JWJ Journal. The Journal is published once a month. Call Kathy at the rectory for more information at (574) 287.1700.