



Beacon of Hope . . .

Light of Christ

Volume 2, Issue 5 For Catholics in the Fox Valley

July 2005

WHERE TWO OR MORE OF YOU ARE GATHERED

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If you missed the picnic at Homestead Meadows Sunday, June 26th, you missed a lovely day with great food and even greater company!

There were games and prizes and hayrides - children playing, adults laughing, geese honking... but the best thing about the whole event was the sense of community.

We are a group of people who truly care about one another and the Gospel values we try to live by and embody every day. We are there for each other in good times and bad, in prayer and in celebration, and that, my dear friends, is what "church" is supposed to be about.

Come and join us. This is an open invitation for you to experience a true and welcoming community of believers and friends. Just to be with all these wonderful people is an exercise in faith building.

The picnic was a smashing success and I look forward to more wonderful opportunities to share. We've only just begun and oh, what a voice we shall be!



Alleluia!!

**NOTHING is
Impossible with
GOD**

A Focus On..

- Picnic
- Exempt Status Granted
- VOTE

**What cannot be achieved in one lifetime will happen
when one lifetime is joined to another**

- Harold Kushner

PICNIC MUSINGS

I must admit, as June 26 approached, I was not incredibly excited; I do not typically look forward to social gatherings as history has not served me well in similar situations. Come the day, however, that changed very quickly. Father John was already prepared for cards upon arrival and almost immediately he and I were engaged in a game of cribbage. I was playing quite well at first I was told, which did me much good seeing as it was my first game and I had little clue regarding what I was doing.

I am a poker fanatic and was looking forward to losing my month's change that day. Fortunately (considering the bets being made) there was never a real money game and everyone left with what they originally had. Those playing cribbage

however were placing quarters on the line, including a good friend of mine who didn't make out well in the end—perhaps next year.

It became more and more apparent that this is still very much a growing community as many new faces were welcomed with open arms. Several who appeared at the picnic were “new” to the group but knew others well enough to fit in just fine. That is another terrific quality of this assembly—no one is excluded in any way, shape, or form. All help is welcome.

While walking among the many members of the new community of the Beacon of Hope, one cannot help but feel a sense of unity as the smiles of many familiar faces glance in

one's direction. One never failed to find another friendly person with whom to chat on the topics of the day while children ran about chasing geese and tossing water balloons (with several adults as well). It is good to be together as one again.

- Zach Fannin



THE CHURCH IN OUR DAY

Excerpts from The Church in Our Day published by the Catholic Bishops of the United States January 21, 1968 are being provided for knowledge, reflection and contemporary reaction.

Let these words not be interpreted as a desire to discourage the positive forces developing in the American Catholic Church. We all have much to learn from one another. We shall learn well if we

remember that humility is always the mark of the believer and that we all constitute the faithful; patience is still the attitude of the disciple and we are all disciples; and love for one another in God is more important than all else, leading us to the fulfillment of Christ's highest commandment and to the performance of the most distinctive of Christian virtues. [p 12]



We pray you, Lord, to direct and guide your Church with your unfailing care, that it might be vigilant in times of quiet and daring in times of trouble. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

VOTF-Voice of the Faithful

(Beacon of Hope... Light of Christ...we are not alone in our quests!)

This past July 8-10, I had the privilege of attending, the First VOTF National Convocation in Indianapolis. There were 23 states represented and 556 people in attendance. I walked away with positive, hopeful impressions I'd like to share with you.

These people are a prayer filled people. Prayer begins all meetings, and the Spirit is called upon always to help when decision-making is needed. They are centered in their Catholic faith.

They are grandparents, parents, uncle, aunts and friends of survivors of the sexual scandal in the Church. I found them to be beyond the anger stage of this issue and moving on now to find ways to correct the structure of the Church so

that this may never happen again.

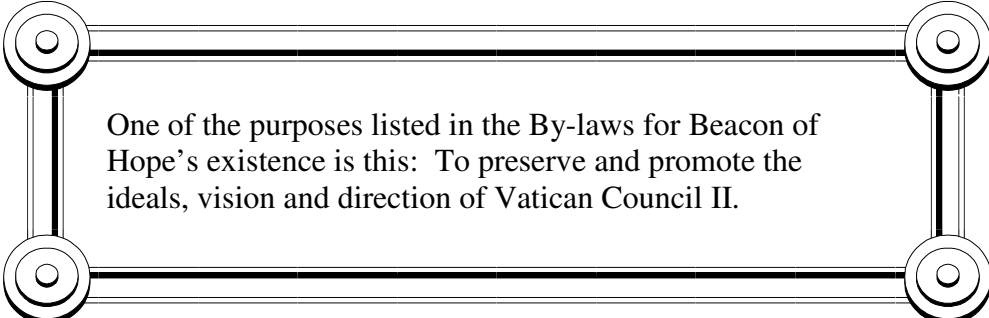
They are dedicated to staying within the Catholic Church calling for accountability and offering an opportunity for the laity to have a voice in the Church. Their mission: "To provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit through which the Faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church. Their goals: To support those who have been abused. 2. To support priests of integrity. And 3. To shape structural change with in Church. All of this is supported in both Scripture, (check out Paul's letters to the Corinthians) papal documents, (see Vatican 11, on the role of the laity Document 1 section 37) and in the early history of our church.

With over 80,000 members, VOTF has an executive director, and now

when issues in the Catholic Church arise, VOTF is contacted by the newspapers for their opinion. The Voice of the Faithful is moving forward, through prayer in the spirit, and the vow to speak the truth, in honesty and openness. Their web sight is a plethora of resources, documents, books and copies of documents surrounding the VOTF direction and support. It is open to all. www.votf.org

- Anne Thielen

Please see following page for Opening Prayers before the VOTF



One of the purposes listed in the By-laws for Beacon of Hope's existence is this: To preserve and promote the ideals, vision and direction of Vatican Council II.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BEACON OF HOPE - LIGHT OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS AUGUST 8, 2005 at 6:30 pm. Address: 806 Valley Road, Menasha, WI.

VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL PETITIONS

Opening Prayer for VOTF Meetings

For all victims of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests,

We pray always for you.

We mean to be agents of your healing.

Response:

We are the Church: we are the Body of Christ. Hear us, Christ our strength and salvation, Help us all. For all our brothers and sisters in faith, as we struggle to become the Spirit-filled Church we are called to be. Move us to accept the challenges of reform that are demanded by today's injustices.

Response:

For all bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, That their hearts and minds be opened to the Church's call to genuine holiness and truth, A call to inclusion and collaboration with the faithful.

Response:

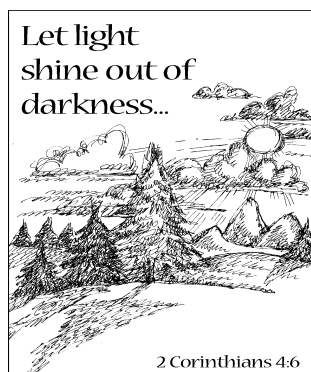
For all who minister in the name of Jesus Christ, And especially for our Roman Catholic priests. We pray for your continued faithfulness to the Gospel and to the voice of the faithful.

Response:

We are the Church: we are the Body of Christ. Strengthen us, fill us with wisdom, Lead us to holy action in building up your reign. Help us to respect our voice and the voices of all the faithful.

Response:

Amen



EXEMPT STATUS GRANTED

Beacon of Hope – Light of Christ has been in the process of obtaining its tax-exempt status over the last few months. It began with the filing of our Articles of Incorporation with the State of Wisconsin in December 2004, continued with an Initial Organizational Meeting in April, and finished with the filing of our Application for Recognition of Exemption with the Internal Revenue Service in early May.

On June 20, 2005 the Internal Revenue Service granted **Beacon of Hope – Light of Christ** tax-exempt status as a section 501(c)3 organization by issuing a favorable determination letter. The application process was lengthy

and detailed. Now **Beacon of Hope** can receive contributions and the donor can deduct his or her contributions for tax purposes under federal law. Our

“On June 20, 2005 the Internal Revenue Service granted Beacon of Hope-Light of Christ tax exempt status.”

Federal Identification Number is 20-2296447.

If a donor wants to make certain there is a record of his/her contribution, the donor is asked to send the contribution directly to: Beacon of Hope, PO

Box 2524, Appleton, WI 54912-2524.

Beacon of Hope – Light of Christ is extremely grateful to all who have contributed thus far. Your charity has enabled the organization to carry on its Spirit-guided mission. One of the purposes for **Beacon of Hope** is spelled out elsewhere in the newsletter. Additional purposes for existence (as listed in the bylaws) will be published in future newsletters. Anyone wishing a copy of the Articles of Incorporation, the by-laws or the determination letter can send a request in writing to the above address.

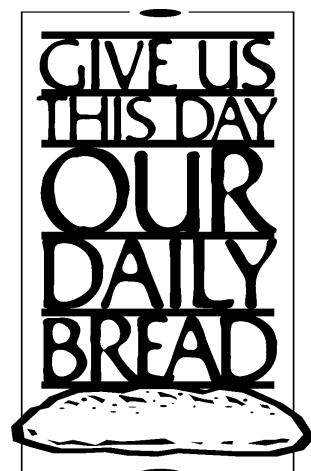
- Greg Stock

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

BOH is continuing the tradition of bringing young adults to the St. Joe's Food Pantry and the Clothing Closet for volunteer experience. Presently, we have a network of friends who are calling friends they know who might want to help. We spend a few hours on Thursdays, organizing food for the pantry to give to the poor, and then we spend a few more hours, helping to organize, fold, separate and prepare clothing for the needy.

You will need parent permission, however both Xavier and Hortonville High School accept these hours for their graduation requirement. We want to welcome all of the youth in the area to participate by calling Anne Thielen 779-0691.

FYI, if your calendar is already booked, we plan to offer this program again next year!



EDITH HAMILTON:

Faith is not belief. Belief is passive. Faith is active.



FOR YOUR COLLECTION - PAST ISSUES

Many people like to keep copies of previous issues of periodicals, magazines and newsletters as a way of looking back on events, ideas learned and information given.

Beacon of Hope- Light of Christ past issues can be viewed at the Beacon of Hope website: www.bohlightofchrist.org Be sure to peruse the past issues!

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

If you wish to receive the BOH-Light of Christ newsletter via e-mail rather than through the postal service, just let us know.

It would allow you to receive the newsletter in a more timely manner and would also help us save some postage cost.

Contact us at

BeaconOfHope@bohlightofchrist.org

If you are silent, be silent from love.

If you accuse, accuse from love.

If you are correct, correct from love.

If you spare, spare from love.

Let Love be rooted deep in you.

Disclaimer: The *Beacon of Hope...Light of Christ* is the official newsletter of the Steering Committee for Social Justice and Reform in the Catholic Church as part of the Beacon of Hope.. Light of Christ. Any opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors. *Beacon of Hope... Light of Christ* operates independently and is not approved by the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay or its parishes.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY

