

# St. Ann WATCH News

Summer Edition—2013

Piety/Study/Action

## President's Message


By Denise Henderson

A few years ago, I was in Ohio when my mom was in the hospital. One Sunday morning, I went to a church near where my dad attended services. There was a very large box in their gathering space overflowing with old shoes. I looked at the signs that were on the box and remembered the information, probably because of the visual impact. Later, I went online and read a bit about the organization and their work to provide clean and safe drinking water ... something we take for granted. It seemed so simple to collect shoes that people no longer needed. Another aspect was that the condition of the shoes did not matter, since they recycle the shoes that are not viable.

Life got busy and this information slipped from my mind. That's not to say I didn't intermittently think about that box of shoes. I kept telling myself that I was too busy and what could we do here in Peoria, Illinois, when the organization was in Louisville, Kentucky? No matter how hard I tried, I felt compelled to look into Shoes for Water more seriously.

Therefore, I spent more time on WaterStep's website, reading about this project. Finally, I took the step and called the church where I first saw that very large box of old shoes. They referred me to the ministerial group in the area that coordinated their effort. A very kind minister spent time with me on the phone, sharing how they planned for their shoe collections and what they learned. He said they eventually reached out to other churches in the community allowing them to collect enough shoes for WaterStep to come with their truck to pick up the donations. This process took just over a year.

That seemed like a lot of work and took such a long time. Out of my mind it went again! However, those



gentle nudgings returned, so I prayed about it and prayed about it some more. I finally took the next step and talked to Dee Dee Hurt, WaterStep's Shoe Lady. She shared stories about their organization and how providing safe drinking water helps those in need. Then she said something that really stopped me in my tracks – for WaterStep to come to Peoria, Illinois, they required 4,000 pairs of shoes! Wow!! Time for more prayer!!!

For that amount of shoes, I knew it was going to take a dedicated group of leaders and some financial support. I immediately thought of WATCH. After all, wasn't a service project such as Shoes for Water what we talk about in WATCH – wasn't this action? We talked about it at one of our board meetings and the board unanimously voted to support this project. The next step was to talk to Fr. Terry, who immediately said, "Let's do it!" The company I work for has a strong commitment to both service and the greener effort for our earth, so I talked to the president who agreed to support the project's financial needs. However, he wanted to go one step further by involving the Village of Morton. Thus, St. Ann's WATCH, with their co-sponsor, The Iona Group in Morton, made the shoe collection idea a reality in August 2012. WATCH managed the churches' donations and the Iona Group coordinated the donations from the businesses and churches in Morton. Last year our target was 4,000 pairs of shoes. This number was chosen so WaterStep would send a truck to Peoria to pick up the shoes. However, through the generosity of the various communities, we collected 9,337 pair of shoes. God is good! There were several weeks that we were bringing in over 2,000 pairs of shoes per week. What we found last year was that the bulk of the shoes were donated at places where people regularly go. Churches were the largest part of helping

to make this effort successful.



This year, Fr. Terry and WATCH sent out 29 letters to area parishes in the diocese. Iona sent out 75 letters to Morton business and churches. As of this writing, we have 27 different drop off locations for 2013. We are excited with the positive responses we have received to date for the shoe collection effort! More information can be found at <http://stannpeoria.com/shoes>. St. Ann's website has some photos from last year's collection effort. You can also find information at <http://www.ionagroup.com/shoes>. Iona's website contains a listing of every drop off location and will be updated as more organizations join the collection effort.

I am sharing the history because many people have asked how this project started. Ideas come in all different forms and from many different people. However, I know that through all of this, God has been and will continue to be at the center. Isaiah 41:17 says "The afflicted and the needy seek water in vain; their tongues are parched with thirst. I, the LORD, will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them." It has been through the promptings of the Holy Spirit, through continued prayers and support of both the WATCH board and this community, through study to find out the information to plan accordingly, and through action to not only get the donations to the drop off locations, but to have the helpers needed to prepare the shoes for

the temporary storage unit that have made this project successful.

Shoes for Water 2013 is almost upon us. Donations will be accepted from August 1st to the 31st. Fran Walker and Ed Tallon will be coordinating this effort for St. Ann. On Sunday morning and early afternoon, volunteers from St. Ann will be needed to help. Perhaps you can't help on Sundays. If during the week is better for you, volunteers will also be needed at Iona's office in Morton. Please contact me at 263-4462 (office) or 253-5564 (cell) if you have some time to help in Morton. We will provide specific instructions for pairing the shoes (tying, connecting straps or rubber banding) and then placing them into a heavy duty trash bag, which is tied at the top and labeled with the number of pairs inside each bag.

We need your help. This is not just a WATCH or an Iona project. Please say yes by SAVING your old shoes and ASKING others to do the same. Then donate them during the month of August. Consider volunteering to help prepare the shoes for shipment to WaterStep. But most importantly, please pray for the success of Shoes for Water 2013.

**Save  
the  
Date**

**August 2013** – Shoe Collection throughout the month  
**August 10, 2013** – De Colores Celebration  
**August 24-25, 2013** – JAM @ St. Ann  
**September 7, 2013** – Fanning the Flames @ St. Ann  
**March 21-23, 2014** – WATCH #17 @ St. Ann

## We Need Used Shoes and Help

By Denise Henderson and Ed Tallon

We need your used shoes – any shoes, in any condition. These shoes are recycled and help provide clean water to those in need. Once again, St. Ann's WATCH and the Iona Group in Morton are partnering to collect used shoes. The collaboration of these groups, along with the generosity of other churches and organizations led to the collection of 9,337 pairs of shoes last year. With the caring and compassionate people of many communities, we hope to surpass last year's totals.

The collated shoes are donated to a not for profit company called WaterStep. WaterStep is a Louisville, Kentucky, nonprofit organization ([www.waterstep.org](http://www.waterstep.org)) focused on providing safe and reliable drinking water all over the world. WaterStep states that 875 million people live without access to clean water today. Without clean water, disease spreads more rapidly. In fact, 80% of all sickness in the world is attributable to unsafe water and sanitation. This point is unacceptable. WaterStep recognizes that many of the world's problems could be cured with access to clean water. By providing water treatment systems, offering health and hygiene education, and training people who are going into areas with unclean water, they are providing more people with access to clean water and sanitation.

One way WaterStep attempts to alleviate this risk is through a program called Shoes for Water where they collect used shoes. Each pair of donated shoes serves two purposes: affordable footwear and clean, safe water. Once collected, WaterStep sells the usable shoes to an exporter generating money for water projects in developing countries. Shoes that are not viable are recycled.

For this drive to be successful, your help is needed! Start looking in your closet. Do you have shoes that you don't wear anymore? Maybe you are thinking about replacing a worn pair of tennis shoes, a broken sandal, or doing some back-to-school shopping over the summer. Please SAVE your old shoes and ASK others to do the same!! Shoes of all kinds will be accepted – flip-flops, sandals, tennis shoes, clogs, dress shoes, garden shoes, etc. Collected shoes will have two purposes – to keep

used shoes out of landfills and to raise money for water projects in poor regions of the world. All shoes collected will be donated to WaterStep.

We need your help once we receive the shoes. As Denise stated in her president's message, there were weeks where we received over 2,000 shoes a week. All of these shoes must be paired, bagged, counted, labeled, and loaded for transportation to the storage bin. In August we will be doing these tasks after most weekend masses. If you can spend 10-20 minutes after mass helping us, your efforts would be greatly appreciated. Contact Fran Walker (550-3959) or Ed Tallon (685-2359), who are coordinating these efforts, with any questions or to volunteer.

Safe drinking water shouldn't be a luxury. We hope you'll join with us in our efforts to end the water crisis. We are helping those in need and we are helping the earth. The collection effort will run throughout the month of August. For a complete list of the drop off locations, please visit <http://www.ionagroup.com/shoes/>. For more information or to volunteer to help with the collection effort, call Denise Henderson at (309) 263-4662.



# JAM

St. Ann is hosting a JAM (Jesus And Me) weekend on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. JAM is for teens ages 13 to 16. The weekend brings teens together for talks, worship, fun, the chance to meet other teens with similar values and to strengthen their love for Jesus. The weekend is open to all area teens. Please invite any teens that you know to this weekend. For more information or to register for the weekend, contact Jill Glenzinski at [glenzinskijill@gmail.com](mailto:glenzinskijill@gmail.com) or (309) 256-7558. You can see the St. Ann website: <http://stannpeoria.com/index.cfm?load=page&page=169> for an overview of the program and a short video on JAM.



By Theresa Kahl

On August 24<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>, St. Ann will host a JAM, which is Jesus And Me. In order to make this event happen, we need volunteers to help in the prayer chapel or help in the kitchen. For the prayer chapel, we need people for one hour increments from 9:00 am on the 24<sup>th</sup> to 4:50 pm on the 25<sup>th</sup>. For the kitchen, we have lunch at 11:45am and dinner at 5:00 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, we have breakfast at 8:00 am and lunch at 12:00 pm. We ask anybody that can help in the kitchen come between an hour to an hour and a half before the time slotted for the meal. For example, lunch on the 24<sup>th</sup> is at 11:45 am, if you can come between 10:15 am and 10:45 am, which would be appreciated. If you can't come down, we could always use some snacks and desserts. Any questions about the prayer chapel or if you want to sign up for an hour in the prayer chapel, call Fran Walker at 550-3959. People who have questions about the kitchen or would to sign up to work in the kitchen can call or text Theresa Kahl at 232-9728 or Katie Jackson at 645-4483. Any help is appreciated. Thanks in advance.

## *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscious of a Nation*

By Jonathan Kozol

Review by Ed Tallon

The book focuses on the lives of children in a neighborhood in the South Bronx. This area is located south of Yankee Stadium and north of Manhattan. The neighborhood is serviced by the #6 subway line. If a person boarded a train on East 59<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan and exited 9 stops and 18 minutes later at Brook Street in the Bronx, he enters the train in the 7<sup>th</sup> wealthiest area in America and exits it at one of the poorest sections in the nation. The reader gets to know the children through a series of powerful conversations between them and the author. The topics included poverty and the way it impacts education, addiction, prostitution, AIDS, and health care. For example, the absence of effective health care in the area is exploited by drug dealers who make more money peddling asthma inhalers than they do selling heroin. The children speak honestly about the poverty and racial segregation that are the harsh realities of their lives. The book, though, is not entirely depressing. Kozol introduces the readers to unselfish teachers and dedicated ministers who do everything in their power to help the children. Furthermore, the children did not respond as one would expect. Most were not cynical or hardened. Instead, they were full of hope, courage, and resilience. The book describes the poverty and social chaos of the children's lives, along with their hopes, dreams, and desire to survive. The book raised two themes – the under recognized worth of all people, and the ability of children to adapt to the most horrific circumstances. I liked the book in large part because it raised both political and theological issues. Two questions the book raised for me were what the value of the life of a child is and what is my response to people who most of society has marginalized? Additionally, I found the book inspirational and hopeful, due to the ability of the children to love and their incredible faith in the decency of human beings.

## **People Who Make a Difference**

### **Parish Nursing Program**

By Ed Tallon

Staying healthy is a challenge. Going to the hospital is nerve racking. St. Ann Parish is blessed to have a Parish Nursing Program that helps keep people well and eases the fears of those in the hospital. The current parish nurse is Jayne English. Jayne is employed by St. Ann; however, she is under the direction of OSF. This distinction is important, because it means that Jayne must attend all of the training and continuing education that OSF requires of all of its nurses. According to the program, the parish nurse is defined as "a professional nurse who serves as a member of the ministry staff of a faith community to promote health." Jayne's goal is to enhance the quality of life for all parishioners. This ambitious goal requires that Jayne wears many hats. She takes a wholistic view of health. Jayne integrates spiritual, psychosocial, and physical elements with regards to wellness and the management of health. The roles of the parish nurse include health counselor, health educator, and health advocate. Jayne is a referral agent who facilitates the integration of faith and healing.

Jayne puts her nursing skill and Christian faith to use in practical ways that benefit the people of St. Ann. In order to promote good health, Jayne and volunteers offer monthly blood pressure screenings. Each month Jayne shares healthy recipes and tips to promote wellness. She also maintains a bulletin board in the narthex that presents information on a health related topic. Another aspect of Jayne's ministry is visiting parishioners who are in the hospital. Spiritual care is her favorite part of being a parish nurse, because she is carrying out the directive in Scripture to care for the sick. Jayne feels especially blessed to have the opportunity to pray with the sick. She feels that this time spent in prayer brings joy and comfort to all people involved. Jayne blesses the people that she serves; however, she believes that she feels even more blessed by the people she serves. Jayne points to the importance of daily

prayer in her job. She does many things. Each day is different and brings trials. Prayer enables her to handle whatever challenge she faces.

In addition to prayer, Jayne will be the first to tell you that she does not do her ministry alone. She works closely with Fr. Terry, who has a strong commitment to ministering to the sick. Fr. Terry and Jayne are on the Steering Committee for the area Parish Nursing Program. There is also a Wellness Committee at St. Ann. This committee is comprised of six parishioners and Jayne. Its mission is to advertise and promote the Parish Nursing Program. Additionally, St. Ann parishioners support the program through participating in fundraisers and making financial contributions.

Jayne is in her office Tuesday and Thursday mornings. She does not act like a prompt care. However, by assessing and talking to patients, she can help them locate the medical care that they need and act as an advocate for them. In the afternoons, Jayne visits parishioners who are in the hospital, nursing homes, or those who are homebound. If you or any parishioners that you know are in the hospital please call the parish office so that Jayne or Fr. Terry can visit them. One of the frustrating aspects of her job is finding out that she missed seeing a parishioner in the hospital, because she was unaware that person was hospitalized.

St. Ann is blessed to have so many people who support the Parish Nursing Program. The volunteers, Wellness Committee, and parishioners give their time, talents, and treasure. Furthermore, Fr. Terry's advocacy and support keep the program strong. Finally, as parish nurse, Jayne English displays the patience, humility, kindness, gentleness, compassion, and faithfulness that give the program a positive identity in our parish. We are blessed to have all of these people working together to provide St. Ann with a strong Parish Nursing Program. The Parish Nursing Program makes a difference at St. Ann.

## What is spiritual direction?



### Our New Spiritual Directors

By Ed Tallon

In a recent edition of the *Catholic Post*, there was an article about and picture of the people who recently finished training to become a Spiritual Director. Two of the newly trained Spiritual Directors were from St. Ann: Lourdes Delgado-Serrano and Suzie Meisner. I was curious about the specifics of being a Spiritual Director, so I spoke to Lourdes and Suzie.

First of all, Lourdes described a Spiritual Director as someone who helps improve a person's relationship with God by helping that person be aware of how God is active in his life, in his family, in his neighbors, and in other people that are in his life. Lourdes noted that seeing God in one's life is not always obvious. For example, she said that it was easy to see God in good times. However, difficulties test one's ability to see God in one's life. The Spiritual Director helps a person become aware of God's actions in his life. By seeing God's actions, a person can develop a deeper and more intimate relationship with God. Lourdes cautioned me that the Spiritual Director does not give advice on how to do things or tell someone what to do. Rather, the Spiritual Director assists a person in becoming more aware of God's presence, which will improve that person's relationship with God. The Spiritual Director's main goal is to foster an improved relationship between that person and God. Lourdes added that people should realize that the Spiritual Director is not the one doing the work. Instead, it is the Holy Spirit, working through the Spiritual Director that is the inspiration for ideas. The Spiritual Director acts as a facilitator. Suzie echoed that it is God, not the person doing the directing. She added that the Spiritual Director does deep listening. This listening gives the person the opportunity to talk things out. We often get caught up in our own lives, sometimes causing us to get stuck in our situations. A Spiritual Director will listen to the different experiences in that person's life. Suzie believes that talking about one's life

in the setting of spiritual direction can help to consider where God is working in these situations. This process can sometimes allow a person the freedom to move forward in his spiritual life.

Lourdes described the training as intense and rewarding. The program took her two years to complete. The training was under the direction of Father Albert Haase. Father Haase is a Franciscan who is a renowned Spiritual Director and Retreat Master. During these two years, the class was required to read many books and complete numerous assignments. The main assignment was that each person had to work with a Spiritual Director. Lourdes said that this training transformed her prayer life and was a blessing in her life. She called this experience a gift from God. Lourdes also shared that her preparation to become a Spiritual Director gave her greater awareness of God's presence in both the good and bad times of her life. She added that in tough times God does not abandon us. He is always there, always loves us, and full of mercy. God is always near us, waiting for us with open arms. It is up to us to seek Him. The Spiritual Director assists in this pursuit. Suzie agreed that her experience in this program have helped her to not only gain concepts through reading the required books about spiritual directions, but also to reflect on these concepts in order to better experience God's presence and His love for her. She added that her training has led to a wonderful place. For instance, she believes that she has been able to use God's example to better practice forgiveness and mercy in her own life. She hopes to share this concept through listening to others in spiritual direction.

Anyone interested in working with a Spiritual Director should call the St. Ann Parish office or talk with Father Terry to set up an appointment.

## Fanning the Flames

The next Fanning the Flames at St. Ann is scheduled for Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 1pm. The theme for the half day retreat is The Way. The day begins at 8am with mass in the church. We then go the Parish Hall for three talks, prayer, sharing, and fellowship. The three talks are Puzzle Pieces, Stop and Go, and the Lure of the Message. The day ends with lunch. We encourage you to spend the morning renewing your faith and friendships.

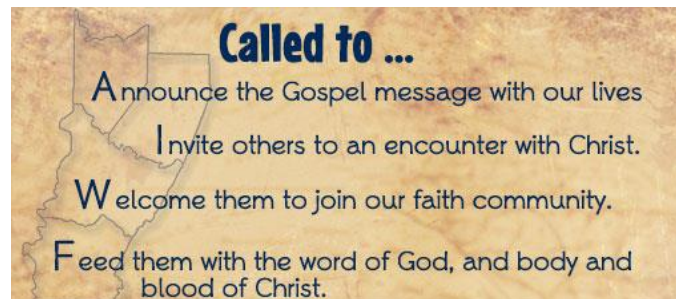


## De Colores Celebration

All members of the WATCH community are invited to the De Colores celebration on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. This evening of worship and music will be held at The First United Methodist Church, which is located at 116 NE Perry Avenue in downtown Peoria. The annual De Colores celebration brings together the various area spiritual renewal groups, which includes Cursillo, Prison Ministry, Spanish Cursillo, TEC, Via de Cristo, Walk to Emmaus, and WATCH. It is evening for these groups to garter together, sing God's praises, and spend an evening together joyfully and gratefully celebrating the way God has used these programs to touch so many hearts and change so many lives.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Come Holy Spirit". This evening promises to be spirit-filled

and uplifting. A Social and Fellowship will follow the worship service in the church hall. For more information, contact First United Methodist Church at (309) 673-3641.



## Deacon's Corner

By Deacon Craig Reakenwalt

I hope that everyone is a good summer. It is hard to believe that it is already August. We should think about implementing the gospel whenever we can. Evangelization is needed wherever Gospel values have not been fully established. All we have to do is see the regular news coverage of how desperately our won society and institutions need to be evangelized – not to mention our won hearts. We must begin implementing the Gospel on our own turf. Try to be a shining example. We need to be more aware of the power of our good examples our personal contacts. Even something as seemingly insignificant as our smiles can make a difference.

## Website Updated

The St. Ann WATCH website and calendar have been updated. The WATCH information is found at <http://stannpeoria.com/index.cfm?load=page&page=113> . The calendar can be accessed at <http://stannpeoria.com/index.cfm?load=page&page=22#sthash.Sp4Q8yxW.dpuf>.