

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Fr. Buersmeyer's weekly column appears on page 6.

IT'S ALMOST HERE

...our Summer Sun Shine vacation bible school "Galilee by-the-Sea. Have you registered your child yet?

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM

We're having an Ice Cream Social on July 22 from 12:30-1:30. Mark your calendars.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

See what's "New and Noteworthy", read past issues of our bulletin, find links to other sites. Go online and see for yourself—www.ssjohnandpaul.org

WANT TO BE AN USHER?

Ushers are needed, especially for the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Call the parish office.

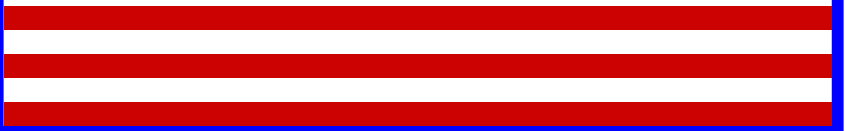
PICNIC

ANOTHER YEAR...ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY...

- ◆ Over 350 people enjoyed food, music, games, and one another's company at the SS. John and Paul Picnic 2007. We even had a surprise guest come...by the name of Krunches D. Klowa.
- ◆ Our soccer game with the children and young teens had great participation and hopefully, next year, it will be even a bigger event.
- ◆ Our thanks to a great Picnic Committee, with co-chairs Dave / Julie Sorensen and Rick Giffin, who worked very hard to see that everyone had fun, had plenty to eat, and enjoyed the event.
- ◆ Our D.J. provided wonderful music for dancing and karaoke for the brave ones.
- ◆ Thanks also to the parishioners who came to enjoy the day with us, and to all those who stayed to help clean up a most SINCERE THANK YOU!!!



Join us as we celebrate Mass
on July 4 at 9:00 a.m.



Here's what's happening this week!

Monday, July 2:

- *Mass at 7:00 p.m.
- *11:30 Senior cards

Tuesday, July 3:

- *Mass at 9:00 a.m.
- *No evening office hours—offices close at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4:

- *9:00 a.m. Mass
- *Offices closed

Saturday, July 7:

- *3:00 Confessions

Note: Holiday Office Hours

There will be no evening office hours on Tuesday, July 3. (Close at 4:30 p.m.) Offices will be closed on July 4 and reopen at 9:00 a.m. on July 5.

Regular Parish Office Hours

Mon. - Wed. — 9 :00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
 Thursday — 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Saturday—12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
 Sunday — 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Ushers Needed

We are in need of ushers, especially for the 11:30 a.m. Mass. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 586.781.9010.



Golf Outing Sunday, August 26 Bruce Hills Golf Club

**\$55.00...includes
golf, cart, lunch, and dinner!!!**

Registration forms available in the hallway to the Activities Center.



Protecting God's Children



Mark your calendars for the next Protecting God's Children Workshop (PGC) we're hosting on September 27, 2007. This workshop focuses on creating safe environments for children by preventing the

opportunity for sexual abuse to occur. The session will include videos and discussion along with a light meal. All parish volunteers are asked to attend a session within six months of volunteering, along with completing a background check.

The session is Thursday, September 27 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. with a light meal beginning at 5:30 p.m. To register for this workshop, please go to www.virtus.org, click on "registration" (on left side of screen) or call Paula at the office 586.781.9010. By all of us attending, together we can ensure a safer environment for the children and youth of our community.

Other parishes offering a Protecting God's Children Workshop in July and August are: St. Angela Church in Roseville (call 586.445.6360) on July 14 at 9:00 a.m. and July 19 at 6:00 p.m.; St. Joan of Arc in St. Clair Shores (call 586.777.3670) on August 1 at 6:30 p.m.

SSJP Wearables

Our SS. John & Paul Polos, T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, and hats are available again! We will be taking orders thru July 8. Stop in the parish office for an order form. Prices are as follows:



- Polos — \$30
- Sweatshirts — \$16 Adults; \$15 Youth
- T-Shirts—\$7.40 Adults; \$6.40 Youth
- Hats—\$12

**G
R
A
C
E**

**2007-2008
Religious
Formation
Program
September — May**
Have you registered yet?

G.R.A.C.E.
All ages

Green form for parishioners
18 yrs. and up w/o children
Salmon form for families
with children

EARLY CHILDHOOD
3-1/2 to 5 yrs. old
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Purple form

SUMMER SON SHINE
Vacation Bible School
4-10 years of age
July 16-20
Yellow form

For information about each program
and forms, please contact the
Religious Formation Office at
586.781.9488

No Turning Back
Lk. 9:51-62



Jesus said, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’ He is speaking of the need for commitment and dedication. If we wish to plough forward as followers of Christ, we must give it our undivided attention. We need to give it our all. At baptism we have put our hands to the plough of discipleship.

If we keep looking back our attention will be divided as well as our energy. We won’t be fully committed and will act out of half-heartedness. We will lose time, lose sight of our goal and be tempted to turn back or even quit altogether. To look back suggests we are having second thoughts, maybe even doubts and regrets. Maybe we are finding the cost of discipleship too high, or things we thought we gave up are still tugging at our hearts.

But if we look forward, we will give our undivided attention to being followers of Christ. We will be completely committed and whole-hearted. This will give us great strength. All our resources will be called upon and totally dedicated to the call of discipleship. We will not be easily sidetracked. Those who are whole-hearted will find joy, despite hardship. There is no such joy for the half-hearted. So the message is: Don’t turn back; don’t even look back.

Jesus is our best example. He set his face towards Jerusalem, even though he knew that rejection, betrayal and death awaited him there. He would not be led from the path. He has given an example to us of the kind of dedication that is required.

This kind of dedication is a great challenge. It may be easy at the start, but in order to persevere, we need the grace of God. That grace will keep us faithful to God and to one another. God will help us to stay on the chosen road, to persevere in discipleship. Then we will know the joy of the dedicated, and in due time be found fit for the Kingdom.



Summer Son Shine Vacation Bible School
‘GALILEE BY-THE-SEA’
A Holy Land Adventure

JULY 16-20 — 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
For 4 & 5 year olds and Grades 1-5

ARE THE KIDS REGISTERED YET?

There’s just 2 weeks left!





Summer Happenings JULY



Mass Schedule

Saturdays: 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Monday: 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:00-3:30 p.m.,
immediately after the 5:00 mass,
by appointment any other time.

Senior cards
Monday, July 2, 11:30 am

Scripture Series
Women in the Old Testament
Tuesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m.



4th of July Mass
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

Teen fun night
Wednesday, July 18

Monthly food drive
Saturday/Sunday, July 7/8, all masses

Scripture Series
Women in the Old Testament
Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.



Ice Cream Social
Sunday, July 22
12:30-1:30 p.m.

Evangelization/Hospitality Commission
Wednesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m.

Scripture Series
“Women in the Old Testament”
Tuesday, July 24, 6:30 p.m.

Coffee and Donuts
Sunday, July 15, after all masses

Blood pressure checks
Saturday/Sunday, July 28/29, after mass

Summer Son Shine set up
Sunday, July 15, at 1:00 p.m.

Baptisms
Sunday, July 29, at 11:30 mass

SUMMER SON SHINE WEEK “Galilee by-the-Sea”



JULY 16-20, 9:30a.m.-Noon
Picnic lunch Friday, Noon-1:00

Mass with Anointing of the sick,
Monday, July 30, 7:00 p.m.

Senior cards
Monday, July 16, 12:30 p.m.

Scripture Series
“Women in the Old Testament”
Tuesday, July 31, 6:30 p.m.

Widowed Friends Activities

◆ Dinner, Support, and Fun

Widowed of all ages are invited to attend a “family style” dinner at the American Polish Cultural Center, N.W. corner of 15 Mile (Maple Road) and Dequindre in Troy on Friday, July 13. Social time begins at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$13 (cash) payable at the door. Cash bar, deserts extra. Use the Dequindre side entrance. Conversation, games and music until 9:00 p.m. in a safe and friendly setting. Must RSVP by July 7 to Mary Ann 586.939.5270, Bonnie 586.786.6374, or Sue 248.547.1782.

◆ Sight-seeing Tour

For widows and widowers under 55, a narrated sight-seeing tour on the Huron Lady with dinner following right in Port Huron. Sunday, July 15, at 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$17 per ticket. For details contact Betsy 313.881.3673 or Cindy at www.YoungWidowedFriends@yahoo.com.

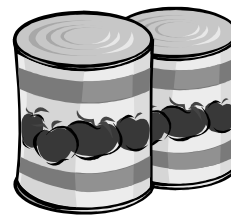
Samaritan House Back-to-School Backpack Drive

It seems as though summer just began but soon it will be time to start preparing for the coming school year. Samaritan House will sponsor their annual Backpack Drive beginning August 1. Backpacks will be distributed mid-August. The following is a listing of items needed so as you are out and about this summer you will know what to buy:

- ◆ Backpacks
- ◆ spiral notebooks
- ◆ pocket folders
- ◆ report covers
- ◆ wide-ruled loose-leaf paper
- ◆ binders
- ◆ children’s scissors,
- ◆ pencils, pens, crayons
- ◆ watercolor markers
- ◆ colored pencils,
- ◆ white school glue, glue sticks
- ◆ 12” rulers,
- ◆ \$20.00 gift certificates to Payless Shoes or cash donations to purchase these items.

Items may be dropped off at Samaritan House during business hours Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Friday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Please note that Samaritan House will be closed from July 3 – 9 for the Fourth of July holiday. Samaritan House is located at 58944 Van Dyke in the Alward’s Plaza at 27 Mile Rd.

FOOD DRIVE NEXT WEEKEND JULY 7-8, 2007



**Please bring your
non-perishable food donations!**

Requested items for the month of July are:

**Juice, coffee, boxed potatoes, crackers,
pancake mix, canned fruit, canned meat,
Hamburger Helper, jelly, syrup, macaroni & cheese,
laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, deodorant,
toothpaste, toothbrushes**

**Other non-perishable food items and
toiletries are always appreciated.**

**In May, your donations helped provide 135 emergency
food orders which fed 413 individuals for 10-14 days.
Your generosity is very much appreciated!**

Pastor's Perspective

*Thank You

There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes both in advance of the picnic and on the day itself. To everyone who helped plan it, donated time and energy and food toward it, worked on it, I offer a big "Thank You!" on behalf of the parish. I hope we continue to have people come forward to spearhead the planning of this picnic day. I think it is a great tradition in the parish and I especially like that we celebrate it in conjunction with our parish namesake day—the feast of SS. John and Paul.

*Independence Day

As we celebrate the 4th of July this year let's be very aware of the men and women who serve their country in the military service and put their lives in danger for our safety and freedom. Let's pray for them. At the same time let us pray for the ability to put partisan politics aside and get those troops home. Only then can we really play a key role in helping that troubled region move toward peace rather than deeper into war.

*New Budget Year

July 1st begins a new Fiscal Year. We continue to grow slowly in number of registered families, but the Sunday collections have gone down slightly. I want to encourage people to take that Sunday donation as an important part of parish stewardship. Please be consistent and make up those weeks that you are gone. The budget figure remains the same as in the past three years: \$11,600 per Sunday. We didn't reach that figure this past year, which meant that we could not set aside as much money toward capital improvements as we had hoped. No matter what happens with an eventual permanent Activities Center, we will

soon need to re-do the parking lot completely and at that time look at widening the entranceway. That costs major dollars, but we have been setting aside some money each year in our savings account for that, as well as for other things (like an eventual new sound system in the church, better lighting, getting a crucifix in conjunction with remodeling the front wall, and building a ramp up into the sanctuary, and other things that can eat up significant dollars).

*Activities Building Update

Last weekend parish council members gave an update at all Masses on the planning process for a new, permanent Activities Building. Basically we are at the design stage. That allows us to hire an architect, to work on a master plan for the building and property, and to get costs very specific. It is only when that phase is done that we can begin talking about funds needed for the project. My guess is that we are a year or more away from that stage. But we will keep everyone posted.

*Christian Anthropology and Other Religions (continued)

Over the last forty years an approach to religions has arisen, termed "pluralist." Instead of starting with Christianity as the fullness of revelation and the 'truest religion', it begins with what all religions seem to share in common and treats all religions as relatively equal paths of salvation. Inspired by a desire to move religion from being a source of conflict and war to being a source of ethical responsibility, the pluralist view does not privilege one religion over another.

All significant, long-lasting historical religions are seen as valid paths to God. Each religion is viewed through the same categories; having its own set of myths (stories), Scriptures (sacred writings), sacramental practices (rituals), prayer forms and community worship (liturgy). This view believes there is no objective way to determine

one as better or more correct than another, so all must be equally respected.

When college students take a world religions class, this is the point of view most often taken by the teacher, and one of the reasons why such courses can lead many college age Catholics to question their faith. After all, it seems most reasonable. Why would it matter to God how we pray or what religion we belong to, as long as we try to live a good life and make this world a more decent place to live? Moreover, we have become such a globalized, interacting world that it makes no sense to use ancient terms like "pagan," as though all that is not Christian or Jewish can be summed up as superstitious or misguided or false. The challenge for Christian theology, then, is to do justice to Christian revelation without demonizing or minimizing the authentic religious faith and structures of others. Which view—exclusivist, inclusivist (see last week's bulletin at www.ssjohnandpaul.org for more on these), or pluralist—does this best?

Clearly the exclusivist approach (all that is not Christian is false) no longer is credible. It dismisses the real goodness, virtue and faith that non-Christian religions, authentically lived, witness to. But the pluralist view, seemingly so reasonable on the surface, is equally problematic. It assumes every religion's understanding of God is more or less the same, as though there is a general understanding of divinity or faith or religion that can be gleaned by taking all the common elements out of the various religions and comparing them. It acts as though what we mean by God can be abstracted from the real faith beliefs and practices of people. In so doing this approach fails to do justice to the faith of the actual believers in any of the religions. And it assumes that "God" can be understood apart from any specific religious faith.

For example, when Muslims pray to Allah, the holy and all-merciful one, we must allow that to have its own integrity and not try to fit it into Christian categories, because it doesn't

fit. I've heard many Christians say "Well, you pray to Allah, we pray to God; same thing." No it is not. It is not accidental that when Pope John Paul II gathered leaders of many different religions together in Assisi to pray for peace, including Muslim imams, they did not pray the same prayers together. Instead they prayed in each other's presence very different kinds of prayer, each faithful to their own way of prayer, to their own understanding of God.

Why not just cut through all of that and say that each type of prayer is to God, each is equally valid, no one way has a claim to a greater insight into God? That would be the pluralist position, and it is very popular in our world today. In the name of tolerance, let's not focus too closely on differences. But if we go down that road, then we do not get to what is essential in Christian prayer or any other religion's prayer, and we certainly, from a Christian point of view, are not praying to God as God has revealed Godself to us. The pluralist view is willing to believe in a God or a divine presence or source but is not willing to believe that such a God or presence or source ever has definitively revealed itself in a unique way. How do they know that? Because it doesn't seem reasonable to them that God would do so. How do they know the mind of God? Of course they don't. The pluralist view assumes that any authentic God would think and act like them.

In other words, the pluralist view reverses the relationship of God and humanity. Instead of a quest to understand what God or the divine presence or source is revealing to us and teaching us, the pluralist view is a quest to understand what we can say about God on our own terms. In practice it tends to act as though God is the creation of human religion rather than human religion a response to the initiative of God. In so doing it flattens out the differences rather than honoring the ways each religion is unique. Moreover, when we flatten all differences we always minimize the core Christian understanding of Jesus. He becomes just another prophet, another wisdom figurer,

another "enlightened" individual, another moral reformer. But that is not Christian faith. Jesus is more than this. Jesus is the definitive, unique human embodiment in history of God's loving, redeeming, saving presence in its fullness as Word. That is the "good news" that Christians must live; the necessary gospel that the world needs for its proper fulfillment. It does not exclude God acting in other ways, but there is no Christianity without a proper understanding of Jesus.

So where do all these reflections leave us on the question of non-Christians and salvation? Does one have to be Christian? And, if no, why then be Christian? In the end, some type of inclusivist approach, as affirmed by the Church's Second Vatican Council over forty years ago, seems to be the only way to do justice to both the specific revelation that God has given us in and through Jesus Christ and to not limit God to our own categories. To be Christian is to know and live by the specific revelation we have been given through the faith of the people of Israel, the faith of Jesus the Christ, and the faith of the earliest generation of disciples of Jesus. How do we know that specific faith is the fullest way to God? We can't know it in an error-proof intellectual way. We explore the history of our faith. We test it against the best human insights we have in all disciplines of study. Most importantly, we live within that faith and experience what happens to us. But in the end there is always a basic trust. We act on trust. There is no faith without such acting on trust.

May our celebrations of freedom on the 4th of July remind us where our true freedom lies: in living with, for, and in Christ.

Fr. Buersmeyer



Christ Has Set Us Free



In this Sunday's readings we are reminded that freedom and service are linked. Saint Paul tells us that Christ set us free so that we might "serve one another through love." The Church teaches that human freedom is part of the original order of God's good creation. In God's design, the gift of freedom makes it possible for each of us to respond to God willingly—not as a slave, but as a beloved daughter or son. The human choice to sin and turn away from God is an abuse of the gift of freedom he has given us.

This idea of freedom also refers to the responsibility which is ours to direct our actions toward the good that God holds out to us. We have been created as rational beings who are able to initiate and control our own actions. This dignity, given to us by our Creator, means that we have the capability to learn and grow, to make decisions and act accordingly—as opposed to being driven by blind impulses and passions.

Let us pray that this gift of freedom will lead us to the love and service of others and to a deeper appreciation for the gifts given to us by our Creator.

"Christ Jesus,
you alone hold the answer
to our troubled lives.
Teach us to pray.

Christ Jesus,
you alone are the way
that we are to follow.
Teach us to pray.

Christ Jesus,
you alone are our center,
our source of strength.
Teach us to pray.

*Help us to pray, Lord,
each and every day."*

Pray for our military



Noel & Greg Ales
 Nick Bassett
 David Benn
 Augie Biache III
 Mike Boback
 Eric Eppens
 Tony Gentilia
 David Krzycki
 Jonathon Krusinski
 Chris Krusinski
 Paul McGowan
 David Newberry
 Ryan Ribant
 Thomas Schmidt
 Chris Staniszewski
 Vincent Titeriga
 Daniel Trendell
 Hunter Taylor

Thoughts on Ageing

- ◆ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know “why” I look this way. I’ve traveled a long way and some of the roads weren’t paved.
- ◆ I don’t know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.
- ◆ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
- ◆ If you don’t learn to laugh at trouble, you won’t have anything to laugh at when you are old.
- ◆ Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.
- ◆ How old would you be if you didn’t know how old you are?

Stewardship Report

June 23-24, 2007

Weekly budget\$11,600.00
 Offertory.....\$7,979.93
 No. Sunday envelopes used.....260
Total offertory\$7,979.93

Other Monies / (# Envelopes)

Debt Reduction / (3).....\$95.00
 Children’s Env. / (8).....\$7.61
 Peter’s Pence / (48).....\$820.00

In today’s second reading, St. Paul provides a wonderful one sentence summary of Christian stewardship: Out of love, place yourselves at one another’s service.

Pray for our sick

Mary Angelosante	Karen Mehlick
Rita Bayer	Trudy Mehlick
Suzanne Bawol	Adele Miller
Mary Burcar	Larry Newsom
Bill Cauley	Denise Olejniczak
Vivette Clark	Leo Osantoske, Sr.
Ralph Cleary	John Pakledinaz
Deborah Conn	Dorothy Puffpaff
Chris Del Pappa	Hank Roman
Lauren DeNio	Mary Ruppert
Art Donovan	Albert Sabbe
Toni Dutchik	Alice Sabbe
Antoinette Errante	Camille Smith
Alojzy Filipowicz	Michelle Smith
Mark Formanczyk	Tommasina Smith
Krystyna Green	Cecelia Smith
Lora Hardin	Mary Sorrow
Veronica Hartley	Ken Stempien
Ruth Hunsucker	Barbara Supina
Jerry Hyvonen	Duane VanPamel
Janet Johnson	Elvira VanPamel
Krissi Kehrig	Richard Waluk
John Kerr	Betty Waligore
Hayden Kroll	
John LaCroix	
Mrs. Fred LaRose	
Jacob Main	
Bernice Mayer	
Agnes Mehlick	

Sponsor of the Week

Xtreme Services

Readings for the Week of July 1, 2007

Sunday, July 1:

1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21; Ps 16; Gal 5:1, 13-18; Lk 9:51-62

Monday, July 2:

Gn 18:16-33; Ps 103; Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday, July 3:

Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117; Jn 20:24-29

Wednesday, July 4:

Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Ps 34; Mt 8:28-34

Thursday, July 5:

Gn 22:1b-19; Ps 115; Mt 9:1-8

Friday, July 6:

Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8; Ps 106; Mt 9:9-13

Saturday, July 7:

Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Ps 135; Mt 9:14-17

Sunday, July 8:

Is 66:10-14c; Ps 66; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9



**Eucharistic
Prayer
Requests**

**Saturday and Sunday
June 30-July 1, 2007**

Andrew VanDamme by E. VanDamme
Giuseppe Pittiglio by Family
Emilio & Maria Tersigni by Family
Ken Willoughby by Krieg Family
Olga & Josephine Recchia by Family

Monday, July 2, 2007

Edmund West by Greenway Family

Tuesday, July 3, 2007

Geri Dale by Kriss Family

Wednesday, July 4, 2007

For the parishioners

**Saturday and Sunday
July 7-8, 2007**

Gerald Hatcher by Wife
Clemente Truden by A. Truden
Irene Kucway by Werzynski Family
Sylvia Gurgul by P. Otto Family
Pauline Otto by P. Otto Family
Theresa Sinila by P. Otto Family

Liturgical appointments for July 7-8, 2007				
	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Sayes
Lectors	B. Conlon A. Franks	A. Loyson M. Sobetski	T. Fletcher S. Dickens	J. Schnepf L. Hester
Eucharistic Ministers *Captain	M. Klakulak* M. Klakulak T. Klakulak L. Klakulak M. McCann	A. Loyson* A. Loyson J. Fannon K. Fannon P. Loyson	M. Greenway* B. Greenway C. Seidel R. Seidel J. Witek L. Zellen S. Zellen	D. Jiannuzzi* S. Brunet M. Catalano E. Goble C. Gregory
Altar Servers	M. Campbell	T. Sova	V. Mangiapane O. Cali	B. Sorensen
Greeters	M. McCann I. Stavenow	L. Weathers M. Weathers	H. Witek D. Bernia	P. Waligore
Ushers	Team #1 B. Diebboll L. Foltran R. Pewinski J. Wright	Team #3 B. Dale E. Fannon S. Krajewski A. Sova R. Chapman	Team #5 L. Monfils M. Bayer B. Janowiak K. Partyka L. Keast	Team #7 B. Cauley R. Kopera L. LePage J. Martino B. Jiannuzzi M. Bytner
Collection Counters	Joe Martino, Larry & Marilyn Weathers, Tom & Mary Ann Klakulak, Ron & Debbie DiDomenico			