



David Rush Named Council President

(Editor's note: Long-time parishioner David Rush was elected president of the St. Therese Parish Council in October 2003. He succeeds Sheila Miller who will be moving from the state. Biographical sketches of the two appear in the following columns.)

"It's the call of the grandchildren," chuckled Dr. Roger Miller in answer to the question concerning the Miller's move to Oregon.

Sheila Miller surprised everyone on the parish council by announcing her resignation as president. But with a house to sell and a major move ahead, there is much work for her to handle. The Millers have been active parishioners for approximately 11 years. Both sing in the choir and act as cantors at the 7:30 a.m. Sunday Latin Mass. Sheila directed the children's choir and with Nola Reid brought in beautiful choirs and music to the Pueblo area including groups like the St. John's College choir and the Boys' Choir of America.



Sheila Miller
moving to Oregon

The most noteworthy, however, was the National Kiev Symphony and Chorus with 160 musicians and 80 singers from the Ukraine. Father Vince, who was always very supportive of these efforts, was totally amazed that they could find free lodging and food for all the musicians. This was due to the wonderful cooperation on the part of the Shrine parishioners and other music lovers throughout the community.

She is a long time member of the Right to Life committee and served on the parish council for 4 years.

Sheila and Roger will be living and working along the northern end of the coast and the Columbia River. There are three towns in that area, Astoria, Seaside and Tillamook. Roger will have his office at Seaside, OR connected to the hospital run by the Providence nuns. They will live in one of the neighboring towns.

"I see the parish council as an advisory council and as a facilitator between the people and the pastor," stated the newly-elected parish council president, David Rush.

David's parents, Ann and Harold Rush, moved their family of six children to the Shrine of St. Therese Parish in 1951. David and his siblings grew up in the parish.

His mother was a well-known person in the parish, attending daily Mass and acting as a chauffeur for Sister Suzanne's many visits to hospitals, nursing homes and homebound parishioners. His father was known as a kind and honest business man who ran Rush's Pueblo Lumber Co.



David Rush
named President

David married his lovely wife, Hannah, who also grew up in a large Pueblo family from the northside. They lived in California for some time. Following the tragic death of his parents, they returned to Pueblo in 1993. He became owner and president of the lumber company soon afterwards. He is usually found working there most

days of the week.

David has served on the council for five years, participating on many committees. Comments by people who have worked with David say, "He is down to earth, practical and fair minded. A great choice and a real Christian gentleman."

David proclaims the word at weekend Masses and faithfully teaches a 4-5th grade religious education class every Sunday. He enjoys the children and views this as assisting the parents in their responsibilities. He views St. Therese Catholic school as an asset to the parish and feels the importance of Catholic and religious schools can only grow in future years. He views the parish as a very active, involved parish of good people.

We have been blessed at the Shrine to have such capable and willing parishioners to guide our Parish Council. ☪



Come Celebrate

By Father Liam

Throughout the liturgical year the church calls us to come celebrate the joy and the mystery of God's love for us. It was in and through this overwhelming love that salvation would come through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, we must try to understand that God's plan of salvation was not revealed immediately, rather it was brought to fruition over a long period of time. It began be God calling to Himself a people, a people that He would lead and guide and slowly reveal to them the plan that would culminate with the Incarnation.

As God revealed, He called His people to celebrate, to give thanks and praise to Him. The people did indeed celebrate, and this celebration of thanksgiving is seen in the many and various festivals that we see the Jewish people participate in throughout the year. We, as Christians, celebrate some of those liturgical events, but now they have a new and more profound meaning in light of the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one of God.

One of these upcoming celebrations will be the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast was also known as Candle Mass Day and is celebrated on the second of February. In bringing their child to the temple Mary and Joseph were being obedient to the word of God spoken to Moses, "consecrate to me every first born that opens the womb among the Israelites, both man and beast, for it belongs to me." Exodus 13 1:3. Thus, they brought their child to God to present Him to the One who had sent Him to become the light to the nations. In describing this event Saint Sophronius would say, "The mother of God, the most pure virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought Him to those in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet Him. The light has come and shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This then is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through Him. So, let us hasten all together to meet God."

Celebrating Candle Mass Day

The tradition of having a procession of light on the Feast of the Presentation is a very old one, beginning in Jerusalem in the 4th century. It was celebrated in Rome in the 5th century and was known as the Feast of the Meeting and also as Candle Mass Day.

As a child in Ireland, I recall the celebration of this feast; however, it also contained a blessing of candles for us in the sacramental celebrations of the church and also a candle or candles for each household in the parish. The candles to be blessed had to be at least 50% bee's wax. Each family would bring their candles to church. They were placed on a large table and the priest would bless them. After the blessing there was a procession to the altar as a suitable hymn was sung.

The candles blessed for families were then brought home, which represented the bringing of the Light of Christ into each household.

This candle was used on various occasions throughout the year. If the pastor had to come on a sick call, the candle was lighted and the priest was met at the door with the lighted candle. This was welcome for the Body of Christ, a mark of respect and reverence for the one who was coming. If a person was dying, the blessed candle was placed in their hand as the family gathered to recite the prayers of the dying. This was the Light of Christ that would lead the dying one out of the darkness of this world and lead them into the presence of God.

Those old but beautiful traditions do not seem to be celebrated as frequently. I believe that this is a great loss to us. In Baptism we receive a lighted candle; this light is to show to the world that we are God's children. It represents our faith, our hope, and our love for God. It is the light of faith that is to be kept burning brightly in our hearts. It is the Light of Christ that leads us safely home to the Father who created us and loves us.

During my time at Conception Seminary College in Missouri, the Benedictine monks celebrated this old and traditional feast. It was a joy to participate in it and see the light of faith reflected on the faces of the students and monks as they carried the candles to the altar.

Come celebrate, God still calls us and perhaps a revival of some of those sacred and holy traditions would help us to celebrate with a greater faith, a more vivid joy, and a deeper love. ✂

Priestly Exchanges

In November, Carol and Dwight Scott celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary at the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass. It was probably a unique first event at the Shrine as the Mass was celebrated by their priest-son, Father Derrek Scott. The con-celebrants at the altar with him were two other "local Pueblo boys", Msgr. George Holland and Father Charles Sena, who both grew up in Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish.

Father Liam exchanged churches with Father Derrek enabling him to celebrate the Mass with his parents.

The weekend following Christmas, Father Liam traveled to Gunnison so that Father Steve Murray could come to Pueblo to spend a few days with his parents, Audrey and Jim and his siblings. Father Liam feels family is an important connection for those young priests.

Following along with that same feeling, Father Kevin Novack will do the same thing for Father Derrek Scott. They will exchange churches for the weekend and Father Derrek will be preaching at Our Lady of the Meadows.

This priestly exchange of churches is a welcome development for our priests (and an interesting one for the parishioner in the pew!) ✂

Your SHARE Dollars at Work

At Thanksgiving, our parish gave out 54 special baskets. This was accomplished through SHARE COLORADO under the direction of parishioner, Michele Prado-Landreth. In the November packet of contribution envelopes there is an envelope marked "Thanksgiving Baskets." The money placed in the envelopes by parishioners is used to buy groceries from SHARE which are given to those in need. This is not a government food plan.

SHARE is under the auspices of the Denver Archdiocese where food is purchased for half the price and stored in warehouses until it is trucked to distribution centers every month. It operates with volunteers. Anyone may order food from SHARE and purchase it for half price. The person then must commit to doing two hours of community service.

There were a total of 83 baskets filled in the St. Joseph's Room. Of those, 54 were purchased by the Shrine Parish and remaining 30 baskets were bought by individuals in the community.



A FULL LOAD: The above pickup truck was one of several that was loaded with food items to be delivered to needy families at Thanksgiving.

Shrine Teens Attend NCY Conference



Pictured at the National Catholic Youth Conference are (left to right): Robert Garcia, Cheryl Tavarozzi, Vanessa Tavarozzi, Melanie Lajoie, Bishop Tafoya, Kelli Baker, Linda Davis, Toni Davis, Nancy Baker. Front: Jennie Baker.

This past November teens and adult chaperones from the Shrine Parish joined over 23,000 young people from across the nation at the National Catholic Youth Conference. They expressed enthusiasm for their faith in worship and gained leadership skills through workshops.

This is the fourth NCYC that Tri-parish youth have attended. Kelli Baker, CSU-Fort Collins student, has attended four national conferences and enjoyed being a chaperone this time. Tony Munoz, PCC student, Nancy Baker, Cheryl Tavarozzi also chaperoned the group. Teens from the Shrine



Bishop Tafoya blesses the young people during the morning prayer.

attending the conference were Melanie Lajoie, Vanessa Tavarozzi, and Jenni Baker. The Shrine teens joined other young people and adults from Holy Family and Our Lady of the Meadows. Overall, 51 people from the Diocese attended along with Bishop Arthur Tafoya.

Teens raised one-third of the money needed, one-third from their own pockets, and one-third invested by the parish. The conference is a great experience for our youth, and hopefully they will continue to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as active Catholics. ✠ (Reported by Linda Davis)

Shrine Children Shine in

Change is good—even when it is stimulating. Change that stimulates us challenges us to think “outside the box.” With this in mind, the parish family at the Shrine held a pre-Christmas celebration courtesy of our new pastor, Father Liam Courtney.

Father Liam, a native son of Ireland, wanted to usher in the last week before Christmas with an afternoon of song and visual prayer. This is a custom he grew up with as a boy in Ireland; the telling and silent re-enactment of the Birth of Jesus. It included involving the children from the parish religious formation classes as well as the children enrolled at St. Therese School. The parish Adult Choir led the singing and two young adults, Chris Javornik and Erin McGuinn, coached by Sheila Miller, were the narrators.

The two-hour celebration took place Sunday, December 21 in the church. There were many persons behind the scenes that helped facilitate this memorable event and a grateful thanks is extended to each of them. We all have something to look forward to next year.

—Audrey Lewis



PICTURE IDENTIFICATION: Top right: clockwise from bottom: Daniel Lira, Candace Berta, Danny Garcia, Laura Lundberg, Virginia Veltri, and Marissa Romero. Bottom left:

Marissa Romero, Sydney Sinatra, Chloe Kraus. Bottom right: Rebecca Higgs, Mark Lundberg.

CHILDREN PARTICIPANTS IN 'A CHRISTMAS STORY OF LOVE'

Angel Gabriel: Dominic Lira; **Mary:** Rebecca Higgs; **Elizabeth:** Nicole Bartolo; **Joseph:** Mark Lundberg; **Angel appearing to Joseph:** Jonathan Romero; **Shepherds:** Rachel Anselmo, Alicia Borcic, Morgan Valentish, Stephanie and Stacey

Costello, Julee Burns, Hannah Steele; **Angel appearing to shepherds:** Alyssa Caldwell; **Multitude of angels:** Abby Cordova, Chloe Jones, Cody and Chloe Kraus, Marissa Romero, Chase Sexton, Isabella Woodruff, Kristi Bartolo, Candace Berta, Brendan Bell, Zachary Evans, Jonathan Gutierrez, Dominic Sinatra, Donny Garcia, Sarah and Daniel Lira, Laura Lundberg, Lexi Sandoval, Sidney

Sinatra, Virginia Veltri, Jennifer and Jeannie Thurston, Maranda Berta, Abbey Cira, Savannah Martinez; **King Herod:** Jamie Thurston; **Astralers:** Michael Cira, Conor McGuinn, Megan Sexton; **Three Kings:** Shelby Gutierrez, Hugo, Donnie Jones; High School students, Chris Javornik and Erin McGuinn, narrated the beautiful event performed December 21, 2003.

Christmas Story of Love'



PICTURE IDENTIFICATION: Top left: (l-r) Isabella Woodruff, Chloe Jones, Abby Cordova. Top right: (l-r) Erin McGuinn, Chris Javornik. Middle left: (l-r) Alicia Borcic, Julee Burns, Morgan Valentish, Rachel Anselmo. Middle right: Stephanie and Stacey Costello. Bottom left: Jamie Thurston. Bottom right: Alyssa Caldwell.

*A Rose photo feature
Photos by Sally Strouss*



MEMORIALS

Thanks to all who contributed to the Shrine of St. Therese Memorial Fund.
The list includes the months of October thru December 15, 2003.

Gerri Alfonso

M/M Lawrence Alfonso

Peter Berta and Deceased Member of Rotolo Family

Mrs. Rose Berta Rutherford

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Melody Dennis

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Dustin, Tiffany Hoover
(grandkids) Chelsie, Tahnee,
Kayleigh McKenzie

Daniel (Guzz) Pecek

Allan J./Viola Juno

Daniel Pecek

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Mary Ann Dalton

Grocery Certificates/Cards a Bargain for You and Our Church

Do you buy groceries, gasoline, prescriptions, and other items regularly at King Soopers or Safeway stores? Do you want to help your church financially at absolutely no cost to your family? Buy Grocery Certificates or Cards!

The church makes a 5 per cent profit on these cards and certificates. We have approximately 100 families participating in this program. Our current turn-over rate of \$10,000 every five to six weeks brings in \$500. Where else could we earn this rate of return on an investment? Imagine what we could earn if more families participated?

The proceeds from these sales are deposited in our Building Fund (Shrine 2000)



account. These contributions are used for improvements to our church buildings and grounds. Father Liam is interested in landscaping the grounds along the Bessemer ditch area. This could be a meditation area, memorial garden, or any of several ideas being discussed. Drought resistant plants and shrubs could be used that would be easy to maintain and would add beauty to our grounds.

Can you find an easier way to help your community church? They are available in \$25.00 or \$50.00 denominations.

Won't you consider buying grocery certificates or cards today to help our church in a painless way!

2004 Stewardship Pledges

Complete thru December 15, 2003

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M/M Joseph Zanini

'God Speaks' Billboards

(New billboards are getting attention in the mid-West. The billboards are simple messages with a black background and white text. No fine print or sponsoring organization is included. Here are a few:)

Tell the kids I love them.—God

Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game.—God

What part of "Thou Shalt Not..." didn't you understand?—God

Keep using my name in vain, I'll make the rush hour longer.—God

Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage.—God

That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing...I meant it.—God

Big bang theory, you've got to be kidding.—God

Have you read my #1 best seller? There will be a test.—God

Don't make me come down there.—God

THE ROSE

A publication of the Catholic community of the Shrine of St. Therese, 300 Goodnight Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004.

—OUR MISSION—

The Shrine of St. Therese newsletter is to reach out and inspire a sense of community and family by means of a regular and timely publication.

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