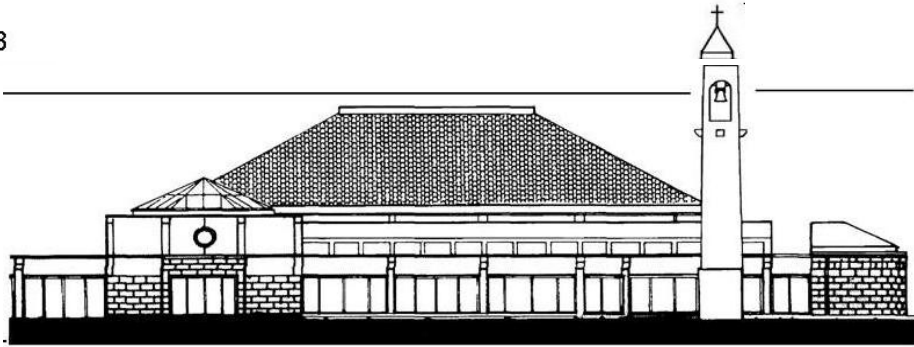


Church of St. Joseph
1154 Seminole Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118

LINK



VOL XVI No. 2
February 2010

Seminarians Spend J- term at St. Joseph's

During Christmas break and January, St. Joseph Parish hosted three seminarians. The seminarians were on break from their studies before the start of the new semester. (from left to right)



- Michael Barsness is a seminarian at St. Paul Seminary. He was assigned to work with Fr. Creagan and the parish as part of his J-term placement. A native of Northfield, he has one brother and one sister. His parents live in Castle Rock and his mother was born in Finland. Michael was raised in the Lutheran Church and experienced a conversion while a student at Dana Collage in Nebraska. His

roommate was Catholic and helped him to learn more about the church. He studied about the early church, apologetics (*reasons why we believe what we do*), and other areas. He said the compelling moment came when he was doing research on John's Gospel Chapter 6 on the Eucharistic discourse. He felt a call to the priesthood and will be ordained in 2014. During his stay at St. Joseph's Parish, he assisted in many liturgies, taught 8th grade Faith Formation, worked with the High School youth group, visited the school, assisted with hospital and home visits, and visited a number of parishioners.

- Joseph Kuharski is a senior at St. John Vianney. He stayed for a few days before preparing for his retreat. Joseph is a parishioner at St. Charles in St. Anthony Village. He

will study at the North American College in Rome next fall. (*Joining another past St. Joseph guest: seminarian Spencer Howe.*)

- Nick Vasko is a junior at St. John Vianney. He lived at St. Joseph last summer and came back on December 15. A parishioner at St. Peter in North St. Paul, he was featured last summer in the August edition of the Link.

Reflection by Parishioner, Rachelle Medina



When I joined the Church of St. Joseph, I was tired and overwhelmed. Life seemed to be pushing in from all sides. When you sign up as a parishioner, you are asked if there are any ministries you wish to take part in. The truth is, I was empty. I had come here not to give, but to get something.

I am a person who likes to fly under the radar, blend in at all costs. I was comfortable on the sidelines where I could keep a safe distance. What drew me to this particular parish is that people here take their faith seriously. There is a real hunger to know Christ. St. Joseph's parishioners frequent the sacraments. They take part in daily Mass. People here really do pray. It is more than a Sunday obligation, it's a relationship with Jesus Christ.

You can't give what you don't have; so I too began taking part in the sacraments and spent time in prayer and in the adoration chapel. What I found by doing these things is a sense of purpose in my emptiness, strength when I am weary, peace when I am afraid, order in my chaos, freedom from my shame.

I belong to this parish because I experience Christ's love for me here, and I see Him at work in others. God is present here, and because of that, I have gone from the sidelines to my knees.

Featured Saint for February: St. Blaise

Feast Day: February 3

Patron of Throat Illnesses



Many Catholics might remember Saint Blaise's feast day because of the Blessing of the Throats that took place on this day. Two candles are blessed, held slightly open, and pressed against the throat as the blessing is said. Saint Blaise's protection of those with throat troubles apparently comes from a legend that a boy was brought to him who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. The boy was about to die when Saint Blaise healed him.

ents? Story ideas? Call the editor, Bridget Zappa, at (651) 681-9076.

Very few facts are known about Saint Blaise. We believe he was a bishop of Sebastea in Armenia who was martyred under the reign of Licinius in the early fourth century.

The legend of his life that sprang up in the eighth century tell us that he was born in to a rich and noble family who raised him as a Christian. After becoming a bishop, a new persecution of Christians began. He received a message from God to go into the hills to escape persecution. Men hunting in the mountains discovered a cave surrounded by wild animals who were sick. Among them Blaise walked unafraid, curing them of their illnesses. Recognizing Blaise as a bishop, they captured him to take him back for trial. On the way back, he talked a wolf into releasing a pig that belonged to a poor woman. When Blaise was sentenced to be starved to death, the woman, in gratitude, sneaked into the prison with food and candles. Finally Blaise was killed by the governor.

Blaise is the patron saint of wild animals because of his care for them and of those with throat maladies.

In His Footsteps:

Take time as Saint Blaise did to find out how you can help wild animals. Find out what is being done to support and protect the wildlife in your area. There is wildlife everywhere, even in cities. Even a birdfeeder can help God's creatures survive.

Prayer:

Saint Blaise, pray for us that we may not suffer from illnesses of the throat and pray that all who are suffering be healed by God's love. Amen.

Reprinted from www.catholic.org.