

# THE MODERN SAINT

## A Tribute to our Pastor

By The Parish Staff

Volume 20, Number 5

MAY 2009

### THIS MONTH

A tribute to our Pastor...  
.....page 1

Fr. Terry: "Responses to transition questions"  
..... page 2

Tech Check..... page 3

CYO volleyball champs  
..... page 3

Beach Party Festival  
..... page 4

For everything there is a season...Ecc. 3:1  
..... page 6

Tax Time - what are you doing with your refund?  
..... page 6

Welcome New Parishioners.....Page 7

Faith in action .....Page 7

Being young, being widowed .....Page 8



**W**orking for and with Fr. Terry has at times been challenging – but not in the ‘negative’ way that people assume the word to mean. He has challenged us to grow, to think in new ways and to move beyond our comfort zones. He has praised us, confronted us, instructed us, trusted us, pushed us, comforted us, yelled at us, and protected us. He has supported our efforts of education and enrichment. He has encouraged us to build a community of support and understanding for each other by providing social gathering times and spiritually guided retreats. As a good manager he gave us the respect, support and space to work. Have we as a staff always agreed with every decision and every direction he led us? No - but we have the utmost respect and support for Fr. Terry because we know that he has thoughtfully and prayerfully reached his conclusions and most importantly, he firmly but compassionately stands behind them. And so, in the spirit of his weekly bulletin article, we offer you:

### Things that we’ve seen and heard about Fr. Terry around the office

**1. His laugh** – In case the red hair, pale skin and freckles haven’t tipped it off, Fr. Terry is Irish – very Irish. He loves a good joke, either telling one or hearing one and his booming laugh can be heard all over the office. But sometimes, if the story is a really good one, he can giggle madly in a way that has been described as a cross between Daffy Duck and a weasel. Hearing that laugh, you can only look up from your desk, shake your head, giggle to yourself and wish you were part of the fun.

**2. Cafeteria Catechism** – Many parishioners never truly appreciate how busy Fr. Terry’s schedule can be. He not only dedicates himself to the work of our parish, but performs important tasks for the Archdiocese; holds a teaching position at the Athenaeum; provides spiritual direction; mentors guided retreats and gives seminars around the country, most notably on Thomas Merton. But occasionally Fr. Terry is able to join whatever staff is available during lunch. While some conversations are just social banter, sometimes Fr. Terry engages us in a ‘teaching’ moment, nuggets of spirituality that touch on any subject, patiently answering questions with wise insight. Rare moments, but definitely a gift that will be missed by all who enjoyed them.

**3. Love of chocolate** – Okay, we all have vices, those things we turn to in times of stress, or enjoy just for the love of it. But oh my – how Fr. Terry’s eyes can light up at the sight of a chocolate brownie or an excellent chocolate truffle! You enjoy throwing your diet out the window and savoring it as he does!

**4. His office** – If you’ve never seen it, words cannot describe it. The impressive part – he knows exactly where everything is (third pile from the phone, 4 papers down...). Memo to his new staff though – don’t sneeze in his office or you’ll ruin two weeks’ worth of filing.

**5. His compassion** – So, we mentioned the Irish features and laugh, and the flip side of that laugh can be a flash “O’ the Fighting Irish” temper – enough said. But it goes without saying that Fr. Terry has the fastest hankie in West Chester/Liberty Township. There was never a time when a staff person

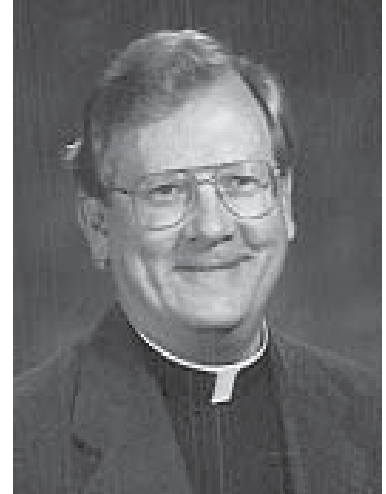
Continued on Page 5

## A Message from Father Terry: Responses to Transition Questions

**W**ith the announcement of a new Pastor for St. Max, the time of transition kicks in. Beginning in July, Fr. Geoff Drew will be the new pastor here at St. Max. He will bring a number of talents to help the growth and development of the parish. I will be moving to Good Shepherd Parish in Montgomery around the same time.

As a parish prepares for a new pastor, a series of questions are asked of the leadership groups in the parish. I offer these questions for your reflection as a parishioner.

- Name three of the most important activities in your parish.
- List three characteristics of your parish of which you are proud.
- What are the three greatest challenges for your parish's future?
- Name two qualities you expect to find in a new pastor.
- Describe how your parish supports your pastor.



I include responses received to the last question: How does your parish support your pastor? I believe these responses give a balanced perspective.

- The parish provides gifts/cards/emails/meals/social invitations
- The parish responds to requests for finances and volunteers
- The parish looks to the pastor for leadership, presence, sacraments and guidance. There is a lack of understanding that the staff works as a team and when appropriate speaks for the pastor. Some expect the pastor to be available seven days a week and to personally respond to their requests. There are those who parish "shop" when they do not get what they want as well as those who do whatever they wish. There are many who respect the pastor's time and support him verbally, through words and gifts.
- This is a difficult question. One witnesses to both the generosity and the selfishness that can exist in a parish. The generosity is shown in ways as simple as weekly meals for the priests and multiple invitations to people's homes, to gifts and praise; a strong set of councils (pastoral, finance, communication, stewardship) to support the pastor's efforts, and a supportive staff. BUT - St. Max can display a certain "ask not what I can do for my parish, but what is my parish and priest doing for me?" It is a "me centric" culture in which St. Max is not valued as highly as it could be in the parishioners' lives. St. Max is a very young parish, both in the age of the church community and the age of its parishioners. Without the distributive balance of ages, it can be very single minded, from different older parishes in which the pastor and the church has a more sacred position in the community, and that attitude is passed down through example. While I think that Fr. Terry has a very relaxed and accessible style, and I think that has gone a long way to build the community, some parishioners use that accessibility as an invitation to the "bully pulpit". A large community like St. Max is constantly seeking to define itself; and there are a number of parishioners who are very vocal in their opinions about what that identity should look like. To sum it up, blind and silent obedience should never be the answer. But, more support, better support for the pastor can only come through the continual reshaping of the culture and thought process of the parish community as a whole.

This sums up the various thoughts and points of view that represent our parish community. Some of these thoughts I would not have said, and some I would have said in a different way. I greatly appreciate those who contributed to answering the above questions.

The June issue of the Modern Saint will have my farewell letter to the parish.

Let us continue to keep one another in our prayers during this time of transition.

**Take good care,  
Fr. Terry** ✠

## Tech Check

By Joe Eppelen –Principal SGCS

As we prepare for the school year to wind down, we also look forward to planning for summer work and the development of the schedule for the coming year. Technology is a driving force in the way we deliver information to our students, and we at St. Gabriel Consolidated School realize the significant needs we have to maintain and select the most appropriate tools necessary to remain current as we enter this last year of the first decade of the 21st century.

The monies raised from our Race for Education in April will go far toward completing phases two and three (the final phase) of our cabling project which will give us increased band width for all of our computers. We have used state monies to replace all of the computers (28) in our lab this spring and were able to then transfer the old ones to classrooms for student use for math drills and the Accelerated Reader Program.

Smart Boards, which are now in all rooms except for Kindergarten, have allowed for much interactive learning and visual presentations for all students. The ability to instantly bring up pictures and information from the internet while teaching any subject has been a boon to our teaching and learning process.

Students in grades 4 through 8 are very comfortable with making power point presentations in their classrooms and the eagerness they display for more information is wonderful to watch.

Our program is shepherded by three part-time tech people who run the lab, keep equipment working and work through the school's technology plan to keep us centered on our educational mission. The technology exposure our students receive enhances their learning on a daily basis and often carries home to their parents who have learned a tip or two from their children. †



### St. Max CYO Fourth Grade Volleyball City Champions!

Beating out 128 other teams in the city are - Front Row: Coach Allie Bergheger, Kaylie Slack, Megan Kaufman, Haley Bergheger Back Row: Coach John Laritz, Abby Lampe, Maggie Boughner, Morgan Kile, Mary Beth Lakeberg, Olivia Bayer, Christine Laritz, Christina Koenig, Coach Bob Bergheger



## St. Max “Beach Party” Festival is just around the corner June 12-14th

By Bob Hendy

This year's festival planning is well underway. The festival committee is planning a great mix of traditional festival events as well as some new things.

### Major Awards

\*\$15,000 cash or a new Chevy HHR valued at \$19,380 Or a Pontiac G5 valued at \$17,650

Kolbe Kash offers a chance at \$15,000 of cold, hard, cash, and who doesn't need \$15,000 these days!

\$250 - Early Bird Drawings

Two Early Bird Drawings for Kolbe Kash will be held on:

- May 11th
- May 26th

Early Bird winners are still eligible for all Kolbe Kash prizes that will be drawn during the festival.

The grand prizes will be drawn on Sunday evening, June 14th, at the close of the festival. If you did not receive your tickets in the mail or need more tickets, or if you have any questions please contact Rob & Jenny Willicut 777-6119 or email [willicutj@fuse.net](mailto:willicutj@fuse.net)

### Entertainment

The entertainment committee has lined up the best weekend of entertainment that any festival has ever seen.....plus The Rusty Griswold's are coming back! Take a look at the lineup:

#### Friday night:

· One not taken ... [www.myspace.com/onenottaken](http://www.myspace.com/onenottaken)

#### Saturday night:

· The Remains... [www.remainsmusic.com](http://www.remainsmusic.com)

#### Sunday night:

· The Rusty Griswolds... [www.therustygriswolds.com](http://www.therustygriswolds.com)



## Basket Extravaganza

Another highly popular event is back again this year... Basket Extravaganza will be raffling off lots and lots of gift baskets containing unique and exciting items! Year after year this continues to grow into one of our best attractions. Be sure to find out why.

Please consider going together with a group of friends or family to donate a basket, or if you would like to help build/wrap baskets - please contact Angie Haney email [ahaney@fuse.net](mailto:ahaney@fuse.net) or 759.6944.

## Silent Auction

You will have the opportunity to bid on a wide variety items including a donated suite by the Cincinnati Reds with tickets, parking, and catering for 16 people with a value of \$3000 for the August 13th game against the Nationals. There will be plenty of other sports memorabilia and non sports related items to bid on as well.

## When, Where, and Parking

Friday: 6 p.m. to 12 Midnight

Saturday: 5 p.m. to 12 Midnight (Mass will be held at 3:30 p.m. that day.)

Sunday: 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The festival will take place on church grounds at 5720 Hamilton-Mason Rd. Limited parking is available on-

site. Parking is available nearby at Heritage Elementary (747 and Hamilton-Mason and Lakota Christian (West Chester / Lesourdsvile Rd and Hamilton-Mason Rd) with shuttle buses running regularly.

## Parking Congestion

We understand that parking is limited; we suggest you drop off the kids and family members at the festival "drop off" zone on the church grounds and proceed to one of the remote lots. If picking up teens at the end of the night – suggest they ride one of the busses to the outer lots and wait for them there.

## Consider Helping Out

If you haven't signed up to help, there's still plenty to do. Contact Bridget or Laura Buchanan at 867-1656 or at [speechyichick2007@fuse.net](mailto:speechyichick2007@fuse.net).

Any festival questions, please contact Laurie McKenna at 759-9411 ([lmckenna@cinci.rr.com](mailto:lmckenna@cinci.rr.com)) or Kevin Ricke at 779-8824 ([kmricke@fuse.net](mailto:kmricke@fuse.net)). You can always find up to date festival information at the parish website [www.saint-max.org](http://www.saint-max.org) and click on 2009 festival. Be sure to patronize all the festival sponsors you'll see advertised at the festival. It's their generous support that makes our festival a success. Help us make this year's even better!

**See you at the Festival!** ✠

### "Fr. Terry"... continued from page 1

was hurting that he wouldn't stop whatever he was doing to counsel and console those of us who needed it. He warmly and patiently listened through tears and the occasional outburst. He offered his advice and hugs, and always ended these sessions with the words, "Do what you need to do to take care of yourself." And from a grateful staff, he generously has allowed us to do just that.

We know that change is difficult but necessary, bringing growth and opportunity. It is with deepest affection that we support Fr. Terry through this change, hating every minute of it, but knowing ultimately that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us, continually creating a new future for us all. But Fr. Terry, always remember this quote from Pericles, "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

We love you and we'll miss you. ✠

### "Being Young..." continued from page 8

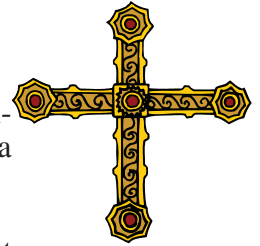
like to be young, widowed, a single parent and in a world that changed when the love of their lives died. Together it is our hope to help other young widowed people find strength, hope, healing through their grief journey.

In February of 2009 we began Companions on a Journey Young Widowed Grief Support Group that will meet on the 2& 4th Wednesday's of the month from 7-9:00 p.m., in the Hospitality Room here at St. Max's. If you or someone you or someone you know is young and widowed and would like more information about this support group or our many other support groups please call Sheila or Tom @ 870-9108. It truly helps to know that you are not alone. ✠

# For everything there is a season... Ecc. 3:1

A time for taking leave and a time for welcoming

Loving and compassionate God, we seek wisdom and guidance during this time of transition. Bless our pastor, Fr. Terry, as he begins his new assignment. He has called us to be a welcoming parish focused on stewardship. May he know our gratitude for his vision.



Bless us, the members of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. May we be open to the demands that change will place on us and flexible in the face of the unknown.

Bless our incoming pastor, Fr. Geoff, as he takes on the responsibilities of leadership. May he find acceptance and support, and may he challenge us to continue to grow in Your love and compassion.

Send Your Spirit upon all of us, Lord, to bring us closer to each other and to You. Amen. ✠

## Tax Time- what are you doing with your refund?

By Fr. Tom McCarthy

Are you getting a tax refund check this year? If you are, what will you do with the money?

I'm sure you have already seen commercials informing you of ways to spend that money. "Come in today with your rebate check and drive out in your new car. We'll use your rebate check as the down payment" or "Bring in your rebate check and we will double it toward the purchase of a new 50" wide-screen TV."

You have been bombarded with TV, radio, and newspaper ads enticing you to spend the money you are getting back from the government on things, especially since retail has been in a decline for months. Many of you have already decided to hold on to this money, given the tough economy, putting it in the bank or investing it in the stock market. Doing so is a smart idea!

Keep in mind, that the down economy has not left the parish untouched. Many parishioners have reduced their contributions to the parish or withheld their contribution altogether because of the uncertainty in the economy.

There was a time that I used to consider the refs I got back on my taxes as "fun money", money to be used for things that I wanted. As I was discerning the call to the priesthood, i.e. the years before going into seminary, I decided to give my rebate checks to the Church. I realized that it was truly better to give than to receive, especially since I would've wasted that money on stupid things. In giving it to the Church, I knew it was going to go toward things more worthwhile than something I would buy- things that months later would be broken or unused.

Many parishioners have cut back on their donations or withheld them because of the tough economy. The money you are getting back from your taxes gives you a good opportunity to get back into being grateful believers and fulfilling our Christian duty to support our Church. That support might be putting the money in the collection to support the parish or towards our debt reduction (20/20). It could also support our Catholic Ministry Appeal, which goes to some important Archdiocesan ministries, like educating future priests and supporting retired priests. I know there are many other good ministries your money supports; I just mentioned those two because obviously I am a little biased.

If you need the money, then by all means save it! But, for those who see this as a little extra or for those you haven't been supporting the Church, please prayerfully consider donating it, or a good portion of it, to the Church. I realize that this was not something that you had initially thought of or planned to do with your refund, but it is truly better to give than to purchase.

May the good Lord bless you and reward you for your generosity. ✠

*Watch the St. Max Family Grow!*

## Welcome New Parishioners!

Kevin and Catie Kauffman  
 James and Mary Mitsch  
 Stephen and Bridget Green  
 Jeff and Tricia Harting  
 Gregory and Andrea Hansen and their child  
 Kylar  
 Chad and Angie Timms and their children  
 Ella and Caden  
 Kenneth and Candy Hartman and their  
 children Daniel and Matthew  
 Michelle Sylla and her children  
 Hanna and Tyler  
 Chad and Chrisy Lansing and their child  
 Chase  
 Arlen and Kelley Johnson and their children  
 Christian and Kaitlyn  
 Margaret Mary DeLuna  
 James and Ana Collett and their child  
 Andrew  
 Brian and Kim Reining and their child  
 Bradley  
 Dennis and Nancy Schuermann  
 Jon and Marie Rossiter and their children  
 Cailyn and Erin  
 Jeff and Kim Helms and their child Kaitlyn  
 Ryan and Melissa Wesley

## Faith in Action

By Chuck Wojciechowski

**F**or over ten years Mr. Bill Huber has been a dedicated volunteer at St. Max. Widowed in 1997, Bill moved into Liberty Township in 1998 to live with his son Don. He became a member of St. Max Parish and volunteered to prepare the sacred vessels and to serve weekday morning Mass. Bill supported Mass in the Father Porter Family Complex and continued in transition to the new church building. Bill is a product of the Cincinnati Catholic Schools, St. Anthony, Purcell High School and Xavier University. He continues to open the church doors each weekday between 7:15-7:30 am.

Bill was called to serve his country in the Draft of 1943. He was honorably discharged in 1946. He married Edna in June of 1948 and is a father of four. He retired from General Electric in 1986 after 37 years of service. Bill says 'I have been blessed throughout my whole life with good parents, siblings and teachers. It is very satisfying to be able to contribute to the smooth operations connected with the weekday masses. St. Max is a great parish that is blessed with good priests and many good people whom contribute to its success. I feel especially close to those who attend the morning weekday masses'.

Father Porter gave Bill the keys to the St. Max Campus over ten years ago and the assignment to open the doors every weekday for Mass. Bill has been faithful to this charge. We thank Bill for his dedication to St. Maximilian. On February 4, 2009 Bill celebrated his 85 birthday. If you see Bill at morning Mass or at 4:30 Mass on Saturday say hello and thank him. ✠

### The Modern Saint

(383367-241)

May 1, 2009

Volume 20, Issue 5

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

**St. Maximilian  
 Kolbe Parish**

7168 St. Alban's Way  
 Liberty Twp., OH 45011

#### EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER

Father Terry Smith

#### EDITOR

Dianne Feltz

#### LAYOUT EDITOR

Michael Hunter

#### CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER

Danielle Johnson

#### WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Colleen Gerke

Jeff Merrill

Sheila Munafo-Kanoza

Kathie Roberts

Taylor Simmons

Chuck Wojciechowski

#### PHOTOGRAPHER

Jenny Willicut

John Terzin

Joy Hunter

#### COMMENTS

**The Modern Saint**

5720 Hamilton-Mason Rd.

Liberty Twp., Ohio 45011

**email:** modernsaint1@yahoo.com



ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE PARISH  
5720 Hamilton-Mason Rd.  
Liberty Township, OH 45011

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Hamilton, OH 45011  
Permit No. 241

8

THE MODERN SAINT

## Being Young, Being Widowed with so many Questions?

By Sheila Munafa-Kanoza

**W**hy me? Why did this happen? How can I go on? What will happen to my family? What should I do? When will I get better? Am I going crazy? Questions? Questions? Questions? So many questions and thoughts race through our minds as we try to piece together the journey that lies ahead of us after the death of a loved one.

When my husband died at the age of 39, I remember all of these questions. Hearing the cry of my children as their hearts were torn and broken was unbearable. I remembered a conversation that I had with my grandmother after my grandfather's death. She shared that her pain felt as though someone had reached into her chest and pulled her heart out. As she talked to me I listened, but I didn't understand. In one breath she shared her prayer to God to let her die, but in the next moment shared that her life still had a purpose and until she fulfilled that purpose she had to learn how to live life to the fullest.

As I remembered my grandmother's life lesson I knew like her I had to learn how to survive. In order to survive I knew I had to learn everything I could about the grieving process. My children became my purpose to live and I knew they would look to me for love, comfort, and strength.

In searching for understanding, guidance and belonging, I found a support group with other young widowed people. And for the first time since my husband's death I found a place where I belonged. It felt so good to be with people who understood my world of grief and who were doing their best to raise their children in a single world. It was there that I met my new best friend Tom Kanoza who was widowed at 38 and the father of two sons. For the first time I was able to share my sorrow, my fears and my love that I had tucked deep with my heart.

Tom and I became best friends, fell in love and then married. As a couple, we understand what it is continued on page 5