

Spirit

Fall 2006—Vol. 16 No. 1

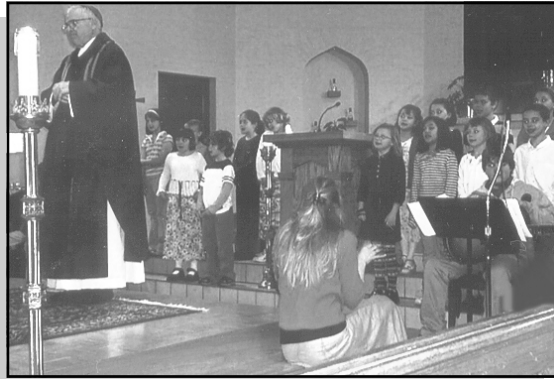
Holy Spirit Catholic School
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"Holy Spirit Catholic School prepares each student to be a participating Catholic in a safe learning community where academic excellence and spiritual development go hand in hand."

Standing in the Need of Prayer

Preparing and helping lead the liturgy for their schoolmates is always a special occasion for students. Having Bishop Milone as the presider at a Holy Spirit liturgy makes it even more so. At a recent mass before he retired, the second graders had conscientiously practiced the scripture readings and the prayers of the faithful.



Guided by music teacher Mrs. Karlene Schraner, cantors had rehearsed their

During the offeratory children prayerfully sang "Standing in the Need of Prayer." Following

the excellent example of older students, these little 7- and 8-year-olds' devotion was unmistakable as they led the school community's weekly liturgy.

And now we wish our beloved Bishop Milone well in his much deserved retirement. We thank him for his unswerving commitment to all Catholic schools in the diocese. God bless you, Bishop Milone!



Dance of Life



Swing your partner, do-si-do! Allemande left and promenade home! These are the words that sang of fun for John and Margaret Wynn as they danced through a long life together.

Before she promenaded home to be with God at the age of 92, Margaret bequeathed the remains of John's and her lifetime accumulation of goods to causes that were important to them. Round dancing and square dancing were but two of their passions. The others were the church and their ca-

reers.

Special friends of Margaret came to know her after her husband died at the age of 88. They spoke of Margaret's devout faith and her long-time membership in Holy Spirit Church and one of its predecessors, Holy Family Church. She was born in North Dakota and raised in Outlook, Montana, just a few miles northwest of Plentywood. A desire to become a nurse brought her to Great Falls to attend nursing school

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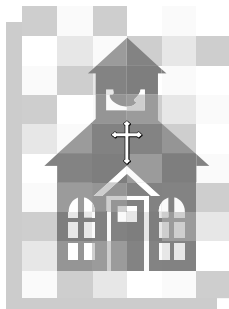
Our treasures, our hearts

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." These are the words in Matthew's gospel, Chapter 6, verse 21. An observer following Juanita and Ted Osbourn's journey through life would see with crystal clarity that their hearts lay with the church, children, and those in need. Sitting behind them at a Great Falls High School basketball game, other fans would join in their enthusiasm and high spirits. Ted especially loved rooting for his team, and gave

money gifts for their support.

Juanita attended Catholic schools in Great Falls, graduating from St. Mary's in 1940. Pursuing her dream of teaching, she attended what was then the College of Great Falls, receiving her degree in 1947. As time passed she worked at various jobs, but always returned to her true love, teaching. C. M. Russell High

School and Great Falls High School students received her gift of teaching.



In later years, always alert to those in need, she helped with the Adult Literacy program and volunteered for Meals on Wheels. A friend said, "She was always

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Look what's inside...

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The Dog Days of Third Grade

Jag, special canine assistant to the governor, visited Holy Spirit in April. Banished from the capitol for receiving more attention than the governor, Jag had

personal visit from Governor Schweitzer and Jag! The governor also brought with him the thank you cards the children had written. Holding up each card to be admired, he signed it before returning it to the child who had written it.

As excited as the children were with the personal attention from the leader of their state, they were even more



set up residence back at the farm in February. Jag's plight drew sympathy from Holy Spirit third graders who sharpened their pencils and wrote cards to the governor on Jag's behalf.

Moved by the children's heartfelt pleas, Governor Schweitzer relented and brought Jag back to the capitol where he now accompanies his master everywhere. In gratitude the children once again wrote the governor, this time thanking him for returning Jag to his place of responsibility.

Imagine their surprise when they were rewarded by a per-

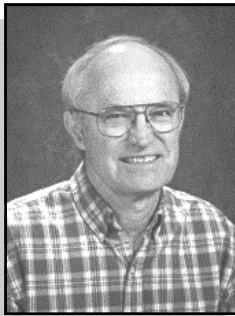
delighted when Jag entered the room. When the well-behaved canine greeted the students, his ecstatic look told them they had accomplished their goal. He was happy to be reunited with his master.

Mathematics rules!

Mr. Jim Kunka, Holy Spirit math teacher, retired at the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

He came to Holy Spirit in 1999 because of his strong religious commitment to his Lord and Savior. He has been able to share this with his students and colleagues. Numerous students have benefited from his excellent teaching style that incorporates scripture, humor and excellent math instruction.

Mr. Kunka says, "I have a special profession that offers nine months of vacation experience and three months off. My faith, my family and being a teacher



are the main priorities in my life."

His career as a math teacher began in 1960. Mr. Kunka has taught middle school, high school and college level classes in North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho and Montana. He's coached student mathematicians all the way to national finals competitions in Washington, D.C.

At our last day of school mass in May, Holy Spirit students, faculty and parents honored Mr. Kunka who for forty-six years, like Jesus, called the children to come unto him.

Mr. Kunka, you are loved, respected and will be forever remembered.

Written with Roger Robbins

Remembering Phil

A statue of Mary surrounded by candles occupied the center of the school gym. Students entered quietly, rosaries entwined in their fingers, and formed a circle around Mary.

Thus began a prayer service held the morning after the news of Phil Procopio's sudden death. Mr. Robbins contrasted the morning's gathering to the customary Monday morning assembly full of prayers, announcements, and celebration of athletic wins. Instead, mourning the loss of our friend Phil was what brought us together that day. We also celebrated his vibrant, exuberant life.

In her remarks, Mimi Mathson reminded us Phil was not only the life of the party, he *was* the party! He was an ardent and enthusiastic supporter of Holy Spirit School, volunteering his services to coach, organize fundraisers, or any other task



that needed to be done. We'll long remember his cheerfulness and good humor. She asked us to remember his love of God, and his love for his family and friends.

Finally, students, staff and parents prayed a decade of the rosary for Phil's peace and his loved ones' healing. We closed with a life-affirming song, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High."

Saints be with us!

When was the last time you had your ants blessed? No, we don't mean your two blessed aunts who come to Thanksgiving dinner. We mean your ants.

If you think it's time, Fr. Dick Schlosser is your man.



Holy Spirit's all-day kindergarten class has been learning about a new saint each week. In honor of the October 4 feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the first week of October was devoted to the study of the holy man who is the patron saint of animals. Children learned that animals were tame and gentle around him and seemed to understand him.

Fr. Schlosser graciously obliged when teacher Laura Demko asked if he would bless the class's pets. On a balmy October afternoon, Fr. Dick and Mrs. Demko gathered with an assemblage of twenty children, six dogs, two fish and two ants, plus assorted parents. The two fish were right at home with the whole water thing. The dogs didn't mind a sprinkle or two. But the two poor ants got drenched and scurried off to find a sunny ant hill where they could perch and dry off.

Pictured is Cinnamon with his master, Tyler Carter, receiving a blessing from Fr. Schlosser.

The spirit is a-movin': Spirit Walk 2006

Footloose," "On the Road Again," "I'm Walkin'." These are some of the songs that swam through our heads on a mid-September Friday during Spirit Walk 2006. Cold rain made for a soggy hike; but any day is a great day for walking, especially when you're walking to earn pledges to benefit your school.



This year's event was special for the fact that we walked in memory of Phil Procopio, father of Holy Spirit students Karissa and Cassandra. Phil died in a traffic accident only a few days before the walk. (See *Remembering Phil*, page 2.)

Dressed in all manner of rain gear, including makeshift ponchos made of plastic trash bags, older children took the hands of their younger schoolmates to walk. Some younger ones even had a brief rest riding piggy-back! And the very youngest were pushed in strollers. That evening, families gathered in the

school gym for a potluck where they were able to meet new families and renew old acquaintances they may not have seen during the summer. The Spirit is truly among us on a day such as this!

Many thanks to the following merchants for contributing all or part of our prizes: Good Vibrations, Holiday Village Mall (Macerich Corp.), Scheels All Sports and Target. See the accompanying article on page 4 for student prize winners.

Thanks so much to the following people who helped with Spirit Walk, walking with classes to the park and back, monitoring the park, and writing thank you notes: Amanda McMillen, Kori and Kurt Depner, Lee and Theresa Busch, Rosemary Semmens, Tim and Jan Gilligan, Marty Boes, Deborah Norman, Monica Lewis, Amber Beckner, Joyce Konesky, Paige Nicholson, Erin and Jeff Hoock, Sydne George, Roxanne Brennan, Jenny Kunka, Beth Munstertieger, Brandy Bowman, Sandi Wilson, Ed and Julie Mendenhall, Pat Scotson, Peter Southon, Kelsie, Kayla and Kylie Schuster, Dave Evert, Sitzmann family, Linda Erickson, Carolee Christensen, and Spirit Walk 2006 chairman Ken Lewis.

A special thanks to our generous donors who are

listed below. Their gifts make it possible for us to carry out our mission to teach children.

Monique Aagner, Scott Aberg, Angela Afflack, Joe Alaniz, Wendy Allison, Kyla and Stuart Anderson, April Anderson, Helmer and Carol Anderson, Marlen Anderson, Stephanie Anderson, Rob Armstrong, Elaine Axtman, Ray and Adeline Axtman, Patty Bach, Russ Bahr, Steve and Desoli Barg, Norm Bassett, Ed Beck, Mike and Jeri Beck, Larry and Amber Beckner, Sanna Beerman, Ralph and Peggy Beltrone Jr., Tammy Bennett, Steve and Linda Bennetts, Carol Benoit, Big Sky Hydraulics, Deb Binkley, Wade and Holly Bitz, Mikall Blatter, David and Marty Boes, Steve Bolstad, Greg Bonnilla, Russell and Marcia Bowman, Ryan and Brandy Bowman, Gary and Helen Boysun, John and Florence Boysun, Melissa Boysun, Mike Boysun, Randi and Sue Boysun, Kurt Bozley, Anna Bradley, Lorrie Brandt, Ernie Brandt, Ann Brehm, Robert Brehm, Billy Brennan, Pat and Roxanne Brennan, Aaron and Heather Bricker, Joe Briggs, Doris Brisbane, Mark and Juli Brisbane, William and Carol Bronson, Wade Brown, Debra Buck, June Buhler, Stacey and Ginger Burcham, Don Burke, Shannon and Theresa Busch, Larry Butler, Thomas and Sherry Hong Carey, Sandy Carter, Cascade Electric, Bob Charlson, Lynn and Carolee Chris-



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(Continued on page 4)

Dance of Life

(Continued from page 1)

at then Columbus Hospital. She worked for many years in the Great Falls offices of Drs. Keenan and Allred. Margaret Wynn's will provided gifts for health care organizations, Great Falls Central High School and Holy Spirit Church and School. \$100,000.00 was designated to Holy Spirit Church for capital building improvements. \$350,000.00 was placed in an endowment trust with the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings.



The annual interest from this fund provides a permanent gift to the school for the specific purpose of providing scholarships.

As they danced, John and Margaret Wynn touched other dancers' hands, their shoulders, their waists as the music and the calls guided them through the intricate square dance steps. They continue to touch others through their generous gifts. Holy Spirit children who benefit from the Wynn scholarship will feel their benefactors' joy. And they can join the Wynns' dance of life. 🌸

Our treasures, our hearts

(Continued from page 1)

helping the neighbors' kids. She was so kind, so good to everyone." A member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Juanita was active in Catholic Daughters of America.

As her life of giving neared its end, Ted was no longer with her. For 53 years, he was the one she could talk to for advice. Now she turned to friends as a sounding board, to think out loud about how she could continue to give when she had gone to be

with Ted again.

In Juanita's will, among other bequests, she left \$100,000.00 each to Holy Spirit Catholic School, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School and the Ursuline Center which, in its early life, provided Catholic education to thousands of students.

Now Juanita is with Ted. If we stand very quietly, we might hear Ted erupt in a cheer for his beloved GFHS basketball team. Perhaps Juanita will shush him, then guide his gaze to look with her upon the many children who reap the rewards of their treasures' mighty works. 🌸

Spirit Walk

(Continued from page 3)

Paula Guisti, Bobbie Jo Gunderson.

Katie Hagen, Jim and Trish Hagenson, Randy Hand, Mary Handel, Sam Harris, Jeff and Susanne Haskell, Lisa Hawksley, Clint and Heidi Haymaker, Shawn and Jennifer Hazelton, Don Henen, Serena Hennessey, Angela Heppner, Angela Heppner, Paul and Anita Heppner, Kenton and Julie Hicketier, Jo Hickey, Annette Hobbs, John Hollenback, Keith and Amy Hollenback, Sarah Hollis, Krystal Hotaling, Terry Howell, Bruce and Celeste Hoyer, Carolyn Huber, Chris and Kelly Hueth, Colleen Hueth, Paul and Diane Hunke, Cheri Hurd, Sandy Hursh, Jill Isakson, Donna Isbell, Christine Jackson, Kathleen Jensen, Aaron Johnson, Marcus and Mary Ellen Johnson, Shawnee Johnson, Gary Johnson, Donald Joyner, Jim Juergens, Muriel Juergens, Pat Kapstafer, Rose Kazen, Ronald Keeley, Leigh Ann and Rich Keplinger, Jason Kercher, Brayden Kessler, Jeffrey and Joan Kessler, Mike and Debbie Kirkpatrick, Dale and Vonnie Klungland, Julian and Yvonne Kobaszlar, Rusty and Judy Kojetin, George Konesky, George and Diane Konesky, Joseph and Joyce Konesky, Jay and Alison Kromarek, Dennis and Shelley Kuiper, Rich and Rita Kuka, Kathie Kummer, Betty Kunkel, Lisa Kunz.

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We are so grateful for everyone's help and gifts. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please accept our sincere apologies and gratitude.

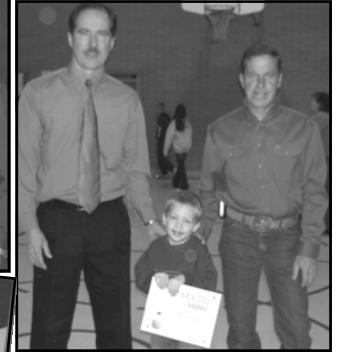
Thanks to all of you, this year we exceeded our goal of \$14,000.

And we'll walk again next year!

Spirit Walk winners

Left: Most money raised over \$300.00, grades 6-8: **Kall Schuster.**

With children are Principal Roger Robbins and Spirit Walk Chairman Ken Lewis



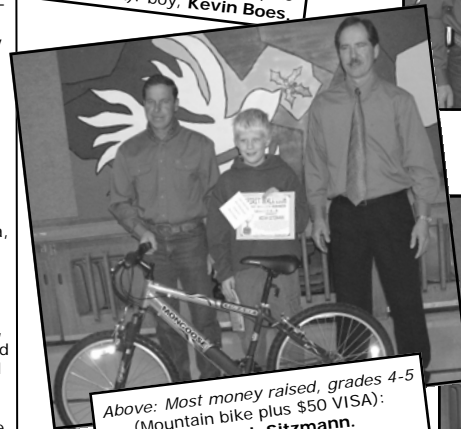
Above: Most sponsors, all grades (\$100 VISA card): **Aiden Shepherd**, kindergarten.



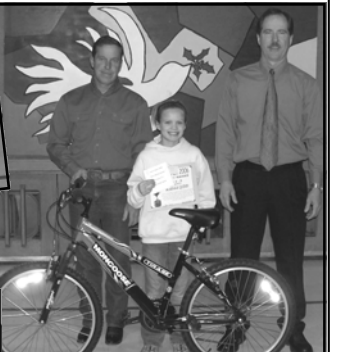
Above: Most money raised, grades 1-3 (AM/FM radio plus \$25 VISA): boy, **Kevin Boes**



Above: Most money raised, grades 1-3 (AM/FM radio plus \$25 VISA): girl, **Josey Quinn.**



Above: Most money raised, grades 4-5 (Mountain bike plus \$50 VISA): boy, **Micah Sitzmann.**



Above: Most money raised, grades 4-5 (Mountain bike plus \$50 VISA): girl, **McKenna Quinn.**



Left: Grade level lap winners. There were several ties. Back row: **Rachel Strauss**, 6-8; **John Leonard**, 4-5; **Matthew Wyman**, 4-5; **Maxx Sitzmann**, 1-3. Front row: **Jerry Schmit**, 1-3; **Jacob Strauss**, 6-8; **Sarah Norman**, 4-5; **Hannah Vincent**, 1-3.



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Welcome wagon

Kindergarten teacher **Laura Demko** comes to Holy Spirit with experience at a Catholic school in Atlanta, GA.



Laura's experience attending St. Mary's College taught her to value Catholic education. When her husband came to Malmstrom AFB, Laura says, "I started looking at Catholic Schools. I visited Holy Spirit and felt a connection; I felt so at home. I feel it was the Holy Spirit who led me here!"

After an eight-year hiatus from teaching to raise her children, **Linda Erickson** has returned to Holy Spirit as the teacher of our Tiny Tots. Linda taught 2nd grade for seven years at Holy Spirit before her oldest child was born.

She says: "I feel like the Holy Spirit has led me back to this school family. I love it!"



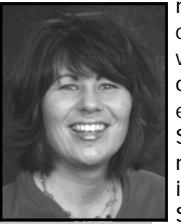
Keila Marmesh, new middle school math and science teacher, attended Carroll College in Helena. Reflecting on her spiritual growth there, she was determined to teach in a Catholic setting if possible.

She says, "After a lot of prayer and thought, I knew that Holy Spirit was the right fit for me. The staff, the standards, the warmth, and God all drew me to this place."



Stephanie Pokorney is our new assistant cook and dishwasher. Mother of two children enrolled in Holy Spirit, Stephanie has been involved in the Spirit of the West Roundup a u c -

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Stephanie has been involved in the Spirit of the West Roundup a u c -



Bless the staff

Three hundred pairs of arms stretched forth, palms out, and three hundred voices rose in singing a blessing upon the school's entire faculty and staff at Holy Spirit's first liturgy of the school year.

Our pastor, Fr. Dick Schlosser, also challenged each class to think about and write specific ways in which they could show respect and love for each other as children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus.

For new staff, what a powerful and uplifting introduction to life in a Catholic school!

Pictured are second graders giving their teacher, Vonnie Smith, an extra blessing when they returned to the classroom from mass.

Stephanie thoroughly enjoys the school, citing the family atmosphere the overwhelming reason for becoming a member of Holy Spirit.

Second grade teacher **Vonnie Smith** is a Billings native. She graduated from the University of Great Falls and worked for Great Falls Public Schools for thirty years as a teacher assistant, job coach, math tutor and teacher, most recently in middle school. Vonnie says: "I am pleased to be teaching at Holy Spirit



at a middle school and high school in Illinois. A stay-at-home dad for a number of years, all four of his family's children are now enrolled at Holy Spirit from fourth grade to tiny tots. What better time to get back into teaching. And, he says, what better place to do this than at Holy Spirit!

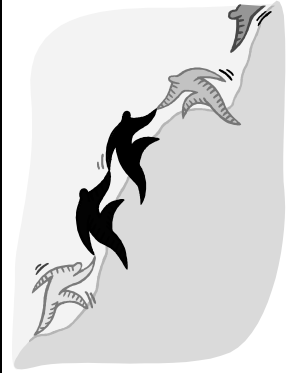
School where I have the opportunity to teach faith and Christian values. I am also enjoying the chance to teach young children."

Eric Vincent, middle school teacher, has previous experience



at a middle school and high school in Illinois. A stay-at-home dad for a number of years, all four of his family's children are now enrolled at Holy Spirit from fourth grade to tiny tots. What better time to get back into teaching. And, he says, what better place to do this than at Holy Spirit!

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Alumnus **Ted Geoghegan** was one of the presenters at the recent Festival of the Book. His topic was "Bloodcurdling Fun: Writing for Horror." According to the Tribune, Ted (T.J., as we knew him) "wrote his first motion picture, 'Demonium,' in 2000. He worked on several European horror films and made his directorial debut in 2004 with the horror/musical/comedy 'Ghouls Gone Wild!'" T.J., we always did love your weird sense of humor.

Tom Figelle, 1998 Holy Spirit graduate, is the new development director for MSU-Great Falls College of Technology.



He is responsible for student scholarships and helps with the college's building expansion project. After graduating from C. M. Russell High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Montana. Tom is also a second lieutenant in the 1-189th Aviation Battalion in the Montana Army National Guard.

Animal Medical Clinic

Timothy J. Gilligan D.V.M.

5100 9th Ave. So.

761-8183

Tim & Jan Gilligan

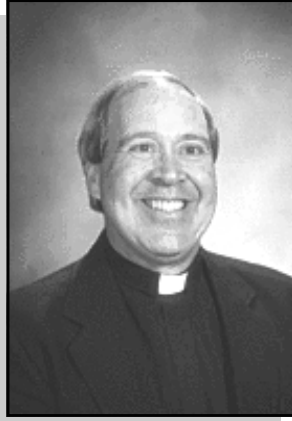
United Way gifts may be designated to Holy Spirit Catholic School.

Angel wings

A WHILE BACK THERE was a horror movie out titled something like "What Lies Beneath." (I was too scared to look and see for sure!) But at Holy Spirit School what lies beneath is far from scary. Rather, it's sacred; holy in fact. One of the strongest traditions our students at Holy Spirit School have is building on the foundation of holiness that lies beneath all we do.

For instance, each year 8th graders who are actively involved in our parish church step forward and request to be Eucharistic Ministers of communion at our school Masses. Most of these young people continue this ministry as high school students at weekend services in the parish. They even volunteer when they are home from college later on! Something holy is growing within these kids: an appreciation of the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist and a sense of service to their parish family.

As I visit many of those in the parish who can't get out



or are dealing with a serious illness or even a family death, I will find their homes decorated on the inside with prayer chains, yards and yards of little angels joined at the wings, each with a prayer offering from one of our students. Again, not only are these people touched by the children's compassion, but the kids themselves have been touched by the possibilities of prayer and the needs of others.

Speaking of prayer, I'm pleased to add that each of our students has a prayer partner in another grade. As partners they pray for each other throughout the year and develop a deeper understanding of how we are connected within the Body of Christ.

I often wish that when I was attending parochial school I would have had these opportunities to share my faith with others. I'm sure I would have turned out better than I did, or at least better than my siblings think I did. If you ever have any prayer needs, just ask the folks at the school, and the kids will have you on their list. Something sacred does lie beneath.

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