

Generations of Faith

by Dave Topor, Lay Missionary

A new year of Generations of Faith is in full swing here at St. Luke's. During the 2007-2008 school year we are focusing on the Ten Commandments. As part of our program we have viewed parts of the following movies: *Chariots of Fire*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Spiderman III*. *Chariots of Fire* was used to show the profound commitment that Olympic runner Eric Liddell had to keeping the Lord's Day holy. Eric Liddell refused to run in the event that was his best: the 100 meters. He would not run because the qualifying heats were on a Sunday. Nonetheless, he decided to run in the 400 meters, a race that he was not as good at.

As Liddell went to the starting blocks an unknown person gave him a piece of paper. The paper quoted 1 Samuel 2:30 where God said, "Those who honor Me, I will honor." To everyone's surprise, Eric Liddell won the 400 meter event. After the Olympics Eric Liddell became a missionary in China. He worked devotedly there for a number of years until a brain tumor killed him at an early age. Eric certainly kept holy the Lord's day, and he also put God first in his life, which is the meaning of the Third and First Commandments.

The little fish Nemo made an appearance on the big screen during our study of the Fourth Commandment. Nemo was disobedient to his father. Because of his disobedience he was captured and sent to a fish tank far from his home. His dad never gave up on him, and would always seek to find him. Finally, the two were reunited and Nemo apologized for his bad behavior. In the end the father and son developed a beautiful relationship. This movie illustrates how important it is to honor our father and mother.

We used *Spiderman III* to study the Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill. In *Spiderman III*, Spiderman desires revenge. He wants to get even with the men who killed his uncle. His aunt who lost her husband tells him that this is not what her husband would have wanted. She tells him that the desire for revenge makes a person become something that they would rather not be. It makes a person ugly and evil. Her comments helped get Spiderman back on the right track. After viewing this excerpt from the movie, Fr. Jack Mattimore, SJ, led a powerful discussion on the importance of forgiveness in our lives.

At each Generations of Faith session we give a take-home packet that deepens our understanding of the Commandments. This part of the program would not be possible without the generous support of Frank and Nancy Polino. In each packet there is a CD, activities based on the CD, coloring and catechism pages, candies, a prayer card, and pamphlets. All these materials reinforce and deepen our knowledge of how to live out the Ten Commandments as a 21st century Catholic Christian.



Norbert Bentkowski, AKA "Captain Video", has been a faithful missionary for several years. Working in the kitchen full time, Norb performs the corporal work of mercy, "Feed the Hungry", nearly every day. Before becoming a missionary, Norb appeared in small parts in several movies! Yes, we have a real piece of Tinsel Town right here at St. Luke's! Norb's sense of humor and deep love for the Church has carried him through the years. Next time you're in the kitchen, say hello to our good friend Norb!



Help us to fill hungry bellies!

Last issue we asked you to help us to provide food for the needy men, women and children of our community, and did you ever come through! Our challenge was to find individuals, corporations, groups, and churches willing to sponsor a week of food in our dining hall. Through the Grace of God, a group of anonymous donors came through and sponsored a total of ten weeks of meals. Their donations provided nearly 40,000 meals over the ten week period. WOW!

Each day we feed three to six hundred people. Our dining hall serves brunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, and dinner on Sunday. We also provide meals for all the "houses" we operate. We are able to do all that for about \$1500.00 each week by carefully using our resources and maximizing donations. Nonetheless, as gas and food prices rise, our budget tightens. That's where you come in!

We are asking you to consider sponsoring a week of meals with your donation of \$1500.00. We would be happy to honor your donation in memory of a loved one, or in honor of someone you would like to recognize. If you would like we will post your name or your group's name in the dining hall and ask our community to remember you in their prayers. Of course, our missionary community will remember you as we do all our benefactors in Mass and prayer. If you are looking for a concrete way to see your donation reach a maximum number of people, this is it! Call 894-4476 for more info today!