

Father Knows Best

By Father Jack Mattimore, S.J.

One Friday night not that long ago I was among the congregation of family and friends of Mark Noonan in the Christ the King Seminary Chapel as Bishop Edward Kmiec ordained Mark to the transitional diaconate. Everyone, from the bishop to Mark's parents and grandfather, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, was filled with joy as we witnessed Mark's offering of himself in chastity and obedience to be of service to the bishop and God's people. The missionaries and others from St. Luke's Mission of Mercy who were present no doubt were grateful to God that part of Mark's journey to this day was spent at St. Luke's where Mark lived and served those most in need. Mark's diaconate and his future priesthood will be that much more fruitful for the time he spent on the East Side present to the least of his brothers and sisters. As Bishop Kmiec laid hands on Mark and prayed, the ancient tradition of men being set apart for ministry to continue the work of Christ in the Church was once again made present in our midst.

The following Friday night I was on retreat with five married couples who belong to Teams of Our Lady, a movement for Catholic married couples who form community with each other and a priest chaplain in order to strengthen their lives as married people in the Church. With prayer and conversation, a shared meal and the Eucharist, we spent time seeking God's help in living out the sacramental life of marriage which has been given for the growth of mankind and the Church. After an enjoyable evening, we gathered again the next day for more prayer and talk with each other. Again, we celebrated the Eucharist and committed ourselves to another year of supporting each other in our vocations as men and women called by Christ to be one with Him and His people. Each of us on retreat that weekend knows the importance of prayer and trust in God in order to live out that call. Each husband and wife knows that they need one another, but they also realize that they need the other couples and even a priest at times for support and encouragement.

Community, whether lived as a man set apart for ordained service, or as a married couple, who as a family form their own little church with Christ at the center, is an essential part of being a Christian. God has been revealed to us as a Community of Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and as we seek to live out our lives in God we too do that in the context of a community. The work that is done at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, while begun by only two people, continues through the prayers, works and generosity of countless others. Some people who help at the Mission are known by many, but others are known only by God. And the Lord is grateful and glorified by each of us. Whatever we do, however God has called us, whether missionary, associate missionary, friend, benefactor, large or small, we are all needed and each act of kindness, generosity or prayer is noted by the Lord and will not go unrewarded.

What we need, then, as St. Ignatius Loyola would remind us, is greater generosity. We should make St. Ignatius' prayer for generosity our own:



**Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve You as You deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
except that of knowing that I am doing Your will.**

Amen.

WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

The staff of the Family Health Center at Sisters of Charity Hospital called to find out what was most needed during the spring months at the Mission. When they were told that the food pantry was in dangerously low supply, they got to work! Lakeysha Paige and the office staff produced and distributed fliers to get the word out. Before long the donations began to come in! The donations will be presented to the Mission on Saturday, June 23rd during the Spring Health Fair, where the Family Health Center will have a display offering health services to our community. Their selfless giving will benefit those most in need, and their presence at the Health Fair is a testimony to their concern for the poor.

Call the Mission today at 894-4476 to find out how your church, organization, office or club can help. We need you!

What does a missionary Look like!?!?



Jeannie Marinaro has been around, well, since the very beginning! A former hair dresser, Jeannie continues to cut hair at the mission, but for a very different clientele! Jeannie also is the "boss lady" of the kitchen, keeping the community fed twice a day, seven days a week throughout the year with a dedicated staff of helpers. If that wasn't enough, Jeannie is a featured vocalist in the Voices of Mercy!