

# St. Noel Endowment News

Volume 8, Issue 2

November 2005

## Annual Report Summary

The St. Noel Endowment Fund is a fund that has been set up to support the Spiritual, Educational, and Social Concerns of the St. Noel Parish. It is operated independently, and is kept separate from any of the other funds that run St. Noel.

Recently, the fund made grants to the women's bible study group, the "Just Faith" program, and for the paging system in the St. Noel playroom. The Board at its annual meeting made one change of note; grants applications will be accepted and grants awarded on a rolling basis. "There is no reason to make parish groups wait to receive grants annually" said Fran Reddick, chair of the Board of Trustees.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2005 -  
September 30, 2005

Fidelity Charitable Gift	
Opening Balance .....	\$160,542.89
Contributions .....	\$ 1,355.50
Grants .....	\$ (2,350)
Planned Gifts .....	\$ 32,667
Changes in	
account value .....	\$ 6,432.10
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$198,647.49</b>

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

George Blatt  
Ross DeJohn  
Darren Ewaska  
Larry Hupertz- Secretary  
Frank Kirchner - Treasurer  
Fran Reddick - Chair  
Frank Vitale  
Melanie Vitale

## Just Faith... Keeps on ~ Keeping On

By Alice Hinkel

Just Faith has been made possible in part by generous donations from our parish endowment to help defray the costs of our *JustFaith* membership, videos, books and guest speakers. Education and action on behalf of justice are integral components of our faith, not optional ones. We are truly blessed to have the resources to undertake *JustFaith*, a process that supports, not only those who participate, but the entire parish in living out the Biblical call to love tenderly, act justly and walk humbly with our God.

The first group of "JustFaithers" completed the *JustFaith* course this past June, they continue to gather monthly as they seek out ways to put into action what they have learned. In recent months much of their focus has been on food and its relationship to faith and issues of justice. The discussion of this topic was stimulated in large part by two events: the reading of *Food & Faith*, a compellation of a number of essays, and a trip to Crown Point Ecological Center in Bath, Ohio.

A number of people also participated



in the evening of "Loaves and Letters" sponsored by our Social Justice Ministry, thanking our senators for what they have already ready done for those who are hungry and encouraging them to continue this work. In December *JustFaith* will be sponsoring a speaker who will also be looking at the issues around food and faith. Other areas this group plans to explore include nonviolence, spirituality of simplicity, and health care.

Individually, our graduates of *JustFaith* have spoken to a number of ways in which the course impacted their personal lives. Many are re-thinking the ways in which they use their resources, where they shop and bank, how committed they are to recycling, what they eat, how they will spend their retirement and perhaps most importantly, recommitting themselves to prayer and ongoing study of Catholic Social Teaching.

We have seven people who are a part of *JustFaith* this year. At this writing they have completed seven weeks of the course and show every sign of faithfully continuing this commitment through May 7, 2006!

## Let Us Know.....

We are open for feedback on this newsletter. If there is a topic that you would like to learn more? Your input and comments would be appreciated. Call the St. Noel office at 440-946-0887.

**Save the Date**  
**Sunday, March 5, 2006**  
**Life Options and Obligations**

*More info to follow*

# Peace of Mind

By Melanie Vitale

Have you ever had a child stay in the "playroom"? It could have been during mass, or the GIFT program, or while you volunteered at Vacation Bible School. It is a nice option to able to use the playroom. But, how is a playroom volunteer supposed to get a hold of a parent whose child is unhappy about being in the playroom, especially in the middle of the Homily?

Wendy Zorman was a part of a group of parents that came up with the idea to use pagers. I had the pleasure of being the first playroom volunteer to try them out. The new pagers arrived just in time for Vacation Bible School this past July. VBS volunteers could leave their children under the age of 3 in the playroom. This allowed them and their other children to participate in VBS. Each parent was given a pager. If we needed them we would page them. The pagers are set to vibrate, so no one else is disturbed. Luckily, I didn't need to use them.

However, at a recent GIFT program, I did need to use the pager. The playroom had 9 children in it, and 2 adults. One of the children started to get sleepy. She became unhappy quickly. It wasn't feasible for one of the adults to leave to search for the parent, there were too many kids for one person to manage, especially because one was screaming. As we tried to calm her down, the other children became restless. I paged the parent. When daddy arrived, the child was happy. Once she was calmed down, the parent left to participate in GIFT. We knew that we could use the pager again if we had to. Thank you to the endowment fund for the peace of mind.

# Variable Annuities for Today and Tomorrow

By Darren Ewaska, CLU, ChFC, RFP

Did you know that the average wage earner can expect to rely on Social Security benefits to replace only about 40 percent of pre-retirement income? Without a plan to cover the rest, a retiree could be forced to live on a lower income.

Investing in stocks and bonds can be one way to help replace the other 60 percent. However, the ups and downs of the financial markets over the past several years may have encouraged some people to shy away from securities and focus instead on accounts with fixed returns.

One way to pursue the potential gains offered by stocks and bonds while also keeping some assets in a fixed account is by owning a variable annuity. The St. Noel Endowment Fund has established several gift annuities guaranteeing life-income to donors.

A variable annuity is a personal retirement account, typically offered by an insurance company. You can allocate your contributions among your choice of a mix of professionally managed portfolios that invest in stocks, bonds, and money market instruments. If you are reluctant to assume the risk normally associated with these types of investments, some of your contributions can be allocated to accounts that offer a fixed return. In fact, 22 percent of variable annuities are in fixed accounts.

Contributions to variable annuities are normally made with after-tax dollars, but any earnings accumulate tax deferred. When a contract holder begins to take distributions from a variable annuity, income taxes are due only on any earnings as they are withdrawn. Annuity owners can choose to receive an income for life, for a fixed period, or one of many other payment options.

Accumulating enough money to replace your pre-retirement income is a big job. A variable annuity may be one strategy to help you pursue potential returns in the financial markets while also keeping some of your assets invested for a fixed return.

Annuity withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income and may be subject to surrender charges plus a 10 percent federal income tax penalty if made prior to age 59. Surrender charges may also apply during the contract's early years. Generally, annuities contain mortality and expense charges, account fees, investment management fees, and administrative fees. Variable annuity sub-accounts fluctuate with changes in market conditions, and when surrendered, the principal may be worth more or less than the original amount invested. Variable annuities are long-term investment vehicles designed for retirement purposes. They are sold by prospectus only. Be sure to read the prospectus carefully before deciding whether to invest. The guarantees of fixed annuity contracts are contingent on the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

## You are Appreciated!!

The St. Noel endowment fund is in existence because of our generous donors. Thank you for your contributions this past year. The endowment fund received charitable contributions for many different reasons. Some were given in honor of a loved one that had passed away. Donors requested in their will that the St. Noel endowment fund receive money upon their death (that is how the fund originally started), or named the fund as the beneficiary of an annuity or life insurance policy. Others donated money because they wanted to have a direct impact on a charity. By giving to the endowment fund they can see the benefits unfold in their own parish.

Your contributions are appreciated! Thank you to the following donors:

- Tom and Louise Black
- Theresa Durik
- Mr. And Mrs. James Klements
- Mr. And Mrs. John Lenehan
- Eva Mencik
- Mrs. Joan Orr
- Mr. And Mrs. Richard Quigley
- Mr. And Mrs. Richard Tobin
- Anthony Trampus



### Want more information about the St Noel Endowment Fund???

Please contact me about the St. Noel Endowment Fund

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the St. Noel Parish Office