



S.M.A.R.T. NEWS
Saint Mary's Active Religious Teens August 2011
Web Site: <http://youth.icstmary.org>

Dear Friends,

Some years ago, on a hot summer day in south Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His father, working in the yard, saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, he ran toward the water, yelling to his son as loudly as he could. Hearing his voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his father. It was too late. Just as he reached his father, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the father grabbed his little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs.

That began the incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the father, but the father was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard the father's screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the reptile. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his father's fingernails dug into his flesh in his effort to hang on to the son he loved. The newspaper reporter, who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter,

"But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Dad wouldn't let go."

At the beginning of a new school year, it is sometimes easy to foolishly wade into precarious situations, not knowing what lies ahead. The "swimming hole of life" can be filled with temptations and peril - and we forget that there are enemies waiting to attack our values and our faith.

But that's when the tug-of-war begins. In the midst of our struggles, God is there loving us, protecting us, and holding on to us.

God will not let go...

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5



AUGUST

- 4th Holy Hour for Vocations -- 7:00PM in the church
- 5th Back to School Clothing Drive
- 11th YOUTH PARISH SERVICE DAY – polishing pews 1-3PM
- 12th MINISTRY TRAINING FOR YOUTH -
1:00PM - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
1:30PM - Lectors
- 15th ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- 18th Casserole-Making for Free Lunch 4-5PM in the parish hall
- 19th Serve FREE LUNCH at the Wesley Center 12-1PM
- 28th Teen Bible Study 7-8PM in the parish hall

AUGUST SERVICE DAY FOR YOUTH

AUGUST 11th 1-3PM.



The Property Management Commission members of our parish are convinced, *once again*, that the YOUTH are the ones who can come to the rescue! Please join with others in helping “touch-up” the pews in our church with stain and polish. Come to Mass at 12:10PM on Thursday, August 11th and join in the project immediately following the liturgy (1-3PM). The more youth who assist, the quicker the service privilege is completed! We hope to see many of you there!

(Whitey's ice cream will beckon us afterwards!)



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 9-12 !!

Help is needed on August 5th from 8:00AM-11:00AM sorting and tagging clothes in preparation for the ToGather Together Back-to School Clothing Drives at three different locations the next day

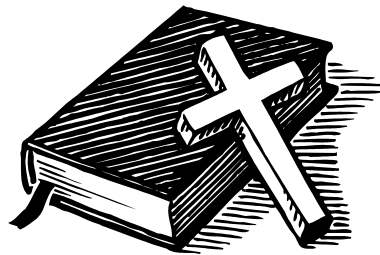
(Aug. 7th). If you are able to lend an organizing hand, please contact our parish office for the different locations. Your help will definitely be appreciated!

TEEN BIBLE STUDY GROUP

For Junior High and High School Youth

WHEN: Sunday, August 28th, 2011

7PM-8PM in St. Mary's Parish Hall



Come join in the FOOD and FUN of learning more about the Bible!!! You won't be disappointed!



**FREE LUNCH CASSEROLE-MAKERS
AND SERVERS FOR AUGUST!**

*Casserole-making
will take place on
Thursday, August 18th from
5-6PM in the parish hall.*

*Free Lunch Servers are needed from
11:45AM- 1PM on Friday, August 19th
at the Wesley Center!*



All youth interested in becoming ministers in
the parish!

Would you like to become one of the
following ministers?

Minister of Hospitality (greeter/usher)

Lector/Reader

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (must be confirmed)

Ministry training will take place on:

Friday, August 12, 2011 at

1PM for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

1:30PM for lectors/readers.

Please call the office to let us know you will be there @337-4314

Watch the SMART News and parish bulletins for parish
commission sign-up opportunities!



2011-2012 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

A Confirmation Information meeting

will be held for all St. Mary's youth in grades 9-12 who would like to receive the
Sacrament of Confirmation in 2012 on

Tuesday, September 13th, 2011 at 7:00PM in the church.

At least one parent must also attend this meeting.



THANK YOU to all the Youth and chaperones who came on the Lost Island Water Park trip in July!

It was a great day to have fun in God's sun! ☺



Vocation Prayer for Discernment

Lord, I thank You for the gifts You have given me,
especially for life, love, family and friends.
Help me to know myself better and to know my talents,
as I pray, study and decide on my life's work.
Help me to see and understand the path You open for me.
Help me choose a life's work which will be in response
to my potential and your love for me.
If I am being invited to follow You as a priest, brother,
sister, give me a generous heart to respond to your
challenging call and the strength to follow You
wherever You lead me.

Amen.

*Have you thought about being a priest or sister?
If so, please contact Fr. John at 337-4314, Fr. Rick at 337-4314,
Fr. Thom Hennen (vocation director) at 563-324-1911 or Sr. Agnes at 337-4314.
Do not be afraid - Listen to the Lord's call in your life!*

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

By: Joseph Malanson

Junior, West High School



St. Clare of Assisi (Feast Day August 11th) – Clare was born in Assisi, Italy on July 16th, 1194. Her father was a wealthy count, and her mother was a very devout woman. In fact, her mother had gone on pilgrimages to Rome and the Holy Land among other places. Her parents decided that she would marry a wealthy young man, but Clare was distraught because of it. On March 20, 1212 she fled her home and looked for safety with St. Francis of Assisi. When she had first heard him preach, she knew that God was calling her to join the religious life and that she should try to imitate Jesus’ life of poverty and humbleness. In a chapel outside Assisi, Francis cut off her hair, gave her a simple brown habit and a cord around her waist. With that, Clare left the civilian world behind, ignoring her parents’ pleas.

Before long, her sister, St. Agnes, joined her and they traveled between various convents and monasteries. During this time, St. Francis had rebuilt a church, San Damiano, and invited St. Clare to come and live there. Other women joined them there and the group of women became renowned for their austerity. They wore no shoes, ate no meat, refrained from speaking a majority of the time, and lived in a poor house. Soon, they became known as the “Poor Ladies.” The Order of San Damiano formed, and the church of San Damiano was its head. Clare was the undisputed leader of the group of women living there. However, for a while, she was ultimately subject to the priests of the church until St. Francis granted her the title of Abbess in 1216, giving her full authority over the women and their lifestyles.

St. Clare defended her order from numerous attacks, some violent and some theological. The army of Frederick II at one time approached Assisi and planned to attack the convent itself. St. Clare was carried, even though she was deathly ill at the time, to the wall and she placed the Eucharist there. She fell to her knees and prayed to God to help them and miraculously, the army suffered a sudden fright and fled the area. St. Clare also fought off attempts by ecclesiastical figures from imposing the Rule of St. Benedict on them, when she felt it was less austere than the life St. Francis encouraged. She followed St. Francis’ ideals so closely that many referred to her as the “other Francis”, and she saw him as a true spiritual father figure. During this time, she was a close advisor to Francis and even took care of him during the illnesses that plagued him during the last years of his life until he died in 1226.

After his death, St. Clare became wholly devoted to her order and wrote letters to abbesses all over Europe. She also resisted the efforts of successive popes to try and stop the extremity of her order’s poverty. Sickness was with her through all of this, but she persevered and never stopped living her holy life until her death on August 11th, 1253 at the age of 59. Just two days before, Pope Innocent IV had finally confirmed that Clare’s Rule would govern her order. In 1255, she was canonized and five years later her remains were moved to a new cathedral dedicated to her. In 1263, Pope Urban IV officially changed the name of the Order of Poor Ladies to the Order of Saint Clare in honor of the saint. Her remains can still be seen more than 700 years later in the same cathedral.