



God's Peace & Joy to You!



As we celebrate the birth of Our Lord, Jesus, we all pray for the peace of Christ to be born anew in our lives and in the world. Amanda, a Mexican woman in her early 30s yearned for peace, but her family was being destroyed by domestic violence.

Amanda is a victim of domestic violence, and like many victims, she didn't seek help until she realized her three daughters and son were paying the price for their father's abuse of her. As she saw her young children's grades fall, their bursts of anger and increasing isolation among their friends, Amanda recognized she needed help. A friend told her about St. Pius V and our H.O.P.E. program for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Now, if you ask Amanda how many times a week she comes to our parish, she smiles and counts off days on her fingers—four or five days a week, usually by bus with her children in tow.

In addition to counseling for herself, Amanda and her husband joined our Parents Helping Parents support group on Monday evenings. On Tuesdays, she brings her two oldest daughters to our program for children of victims of domestic violence. Wednesday evenings she attends a women's support group and - in a separate location - her husband participates in a group for

male abusers, which he voluntarily joined. Amanda returns on Thursday evenings for the Leadership and Spirituality sessions for women. On Sundays, in addition to worshipping with the parish community, her children attend religious education classes and Amanda volunteers as a catechist's helper.

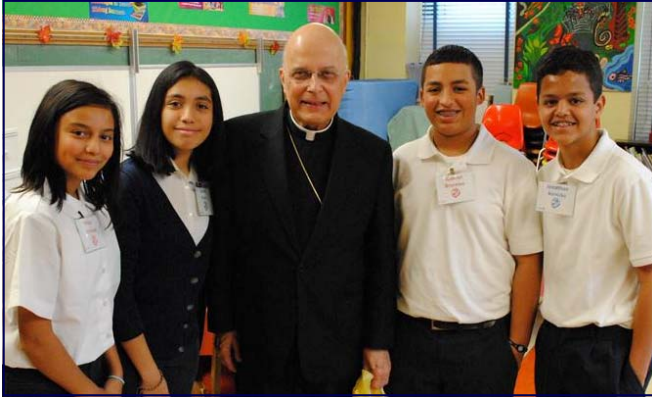
Not every story at St. Pius V ends on such a happy note; many victims of domestic violence permanently leave their abusive partners and St. Pius V accompanies them through this painful process.

Amanda's life is improving. She better understands abuse and has the strength to set limits in her marriage. Her children are making dramatic strides in school and have learned that abuse is not their fault. Her husband is learning about his use of power and control and how to express his love and respect for her. Finally, Amanda is giving back to the community and finding the support for herself and her family to live a peaceful life.

Please help us continue to bring the peace of Christ into the lives of our families. Your generous donations enable us to help women suffering from domestic violence as well as their children and spouses. Together we bring peace into the world. Thank you for your support.



St. Pius V School Pride



Lend a Shoulder Day

The Big Shoulders Fund is an organization that raises money for Catholic schools in Chicago and a major supporter of St. Pius V School. Every November the Fund's "Lend a Shoulder Day" brings benefactors from business and government to visit a school for a morning. On November 3 our school was the chosen "media site" for the annual event which included Cardinal Francis George, Big Shoulders founder and co-chairman James O'Connor, former CEO of United Airlines Glenn Tilton and six other guests to visit and spend a morning with our students.

Noche Mexicana 2012

Save the date for *Noche Mexicana*, our school's largest fundraiser, on Thursday, May 3, 2012, tentatively planned for Carnivale restaurant in Chicago's West Loop. The annual event has grown significantly over the past three years and provides much needed financial support for the families who make up the heart of St. Pius V School. For sponsorship or donation information please call the school at (312) 226-1590.



Following our All Saints Day liturgy, Fr. Brendan relaxes with Sts. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Martin de Porres, Bernadette Soubirous, Dominic, Francis of Assisi and Frances Xavier Cabrini, aka, pre-schoolers of St. Pius V School.

Marquette Peace Program at St. Pius V

Molly Dull and Henry Cervantes (photos below) from the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking are implementing a new program at St. Pius V School. "Peace Works" teaches students the principles of restorative justice and peacemaking skills aimed at reducing youth violence. "Restorative justice focuses less on rules that were broken and more on the harm done by violence," says Molly. "It brings the person who caused the harm into the situation and has them see how their violence has affected others."

In addition to working with the fourth through eighth graders at St. Pius V twice a week, the trainers conduct the pilot program in the Archdiocese of Chicago at Cristo Rey High School and St. Procopius School.



Fr. Brendan had the honor of throwing out the first pitch on behalf of St. Pius V School at the White Sox game on September 28. The Dominican left-hander was caught by Sox ace Mark Buehrle (far right).

Marquette University's Peace Works

Henry Cervantes (right) leads 7th-graders in an exercise for Marquette's Peace Works program at St. Pius V School.



Molly Dull (left) helps St. Pius V students learn skills for peacemaking in the school and in the community.

H.O.P.E. Grows and Reaches Out

H.O.P.E. is St. Pius V's program to strengthen families. Since 1996, it expanded from its original service of counseling to victims of domestic violence to include services for victims' children and even their abusive partners. Then, H.O.P.E. developed on-going parenting classes to help parents learn how to keep their children safe and close. Finally, H.O.P.E. initiated classes and a support group to strengthen marriages through our participation in Family Bridges, a network of family service organizations in the Chicago area that is federally funded.

H.O.P.E. also helps create awareness of domestic violence. In October, program director Dolores Tapia and counselor Carlos Lopez presented a workshop at a faith-based domestic violence conference sponsored by Moody Bible College. Their presentation, entitled "A Church Response to Hispanic Domestic Violence Victims," drew upon their years of experience in shaping the program at St. Pius V. In January they and Fr. Chuck will conduct the first domestic violence training at Mundelein Seminary for 130 seminarians.

In the year ending June 30, 2011, H.O.P.E. served 239 women victims of domestic violence, 149 children, 116 male abusers, 217 parents in parenting classes and more than 350 people in courses for couples. Dolores Tapia and Carlos Lopez are assisted by four other counselors and two educators.

St. Pius V Graduate Hired as Parish Counselor

This summer H.O.P.E. welcomed a new staff member, who is not exactly new. Veronica Flores grew up in St. Pius V, graduated from our parish school and from Holy Trinity High School. During summer breaks from Loras College, Veronica interned in the parish's domestic violence program. All of this prepared her to join our staff full-time after graduating from Loras in spring with a degree in psychology.



Sandra Marines (center), St. Pius V assistant coordinator of Parents Helping Parents, explains the parenting program to attendees at the Family Violence Prevention night in October.



Carlos Lopez (left), counselor; Dolores Tapia, program director; and Luis Chavez, parenting coordinator, have developed St. Pius V's H.O.P.E. program into a comprehensive response to the needs of immigrant families, that includes counseling, case management and advocacy for women and children victims of domestic violence, parenting training, and couples enrichment.

Fr. Chuck Named Director of Domestic Violence Outreach

The October 9 issue of the Catholic New World featured an article on church responses to domestic violence that included an interview with our very own Fr. Chuck Dahm, O.P. the new Director of Domestic Violence Outreach for the Archdiocese.

Fr. Chuck has helped 14 local parishes set up ministries for victims of domestic violence, most recently at St. James in Arlington Heights and St. Michael in Orland Park. The response continues to grow. After he preached at eight weekend Masses at St. Michael, he returned for a follow up planning meeting on Monday evening at which 49 people - many victims of domestic violence - attended.



Cardinal Francis George (right), visiting St. Pius V School on November 3, meets with Fr. Chuck Dahm, whom he recently named Director of Domestic Violence Outreach for the Archdiocese.

In addition to resourcing individual parishes, in the last two months Fr. Chuck held meetings with four pastors in primarily African-American parishes on the city's west side that resulted in these pastors dedicating their homilies on the last Sunday of October to domestic violence. He also met with the pastors of the Englewood/Hyde Park deanery who planned a joint prayer service on domestic violence for eleven parishes in the area



Casa Juan Diego Plans for Expansion



With 75 children and youth participating each day and a growing number of families on the waiting list, the staff of St. Pius V and Casa Juan Diego, the parish youth center, announced plans to begin a much needed expansion of the facility.

The expansion and renovation will add 3,500 square feet to the second floor, two more classrooms on the first floor, additional restroom facilities and an elevator. Through grants and private donations over half of the estimated \$625,000 needed to fund the project already has been raised.

Fr. Chuck and program director Jenny O'Neil are working to secure the remaining funds for construction, which will be completed in August 2012. For more information on the expansion and how you can help please contact Fr. Chuck at (312) 226-6161, ext 24 or Jenny at (312) 421-7647 ext 207.

Celebrating the Harvest 2011

Some 300 friends of St. Pius V filled an elegantly decorated parish hall on October 15 for our fifth annual award banquet *Celebrating the Harvest*.

Guests enjoyed delicious food, drinks, music and the silent auction. They learned more about the parish's outreach and joined in honoring Mary Ellen Caron (Community Service award), Tom and Judy Herbstritt (Family of Faith) and Daniel Suarez (Institutional Development). Julian Crews of WGN News returned as Master of Ceremonies.

We thank our many guests, sponsors and donors for raising almost \$45,000 for the ministries of our parish!



Fr. Chuck presents the Family of Faith award to Tom and Judy Herbstritt.



Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, at St. Pius V church on September 26, signs an historic ordinance that curtails federal detention policies by requiring the federal government to reimburse the county for detaining people locally for immigration offenses.

This victory for county taxpayers and immigration reform advocates was sponsored by Commissioner Jesus Garcia (far right) and championed by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Frs. Brendan and Chuck were part of the coalition that helped pass the ordinance, meeting with Sheriff Tom Dart, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, Preckwinkle and Garcia for more than a year and a half, garnering overwhelming support at the Cook County Board.

Thank you!



During the Advent and Christmas seasons we find hope in our God who came into our world by being born among the poor and vulnerable. Fleeing the violence of Herod, Mary and Joseph understood the pain of being refugees. Their son, Jesus, was born among the poor in the simplicity and humility of a stable. May these beginnings of our Savior remind us to support those most in need. Thank you for your generous support of St. Pius V and our ministries to the immigrant community in Chicago. May the Christ child bless you, keep you safe, and enrich your lives in the new year. You remain in our prayers.

Brendan Curran, O.P.

Charles W. Dahm, O.P.

Matthias Mueller, O.P.

