

# Honoring Our Roots, Cultivating Our Future

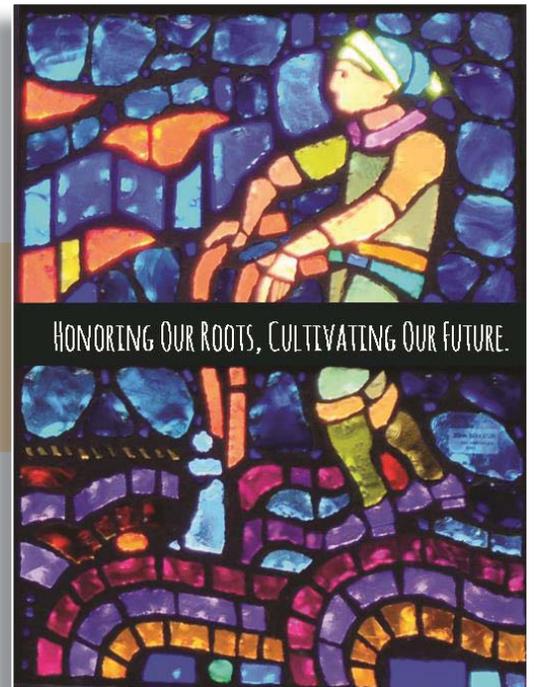
Capital Campaign

By Penni Cannova

*We at St. Isidore are incredibly fortunate* to always be learning and growing, in our individual faith and, as Catholics, as a very valued part of a faith community. Our parish leadership has continually looked toward the future needs of the parish, forecasting and setting goals with each ministry. These goals guide and offer a benchmark for our progress. These plans, though, were recently impacted by the announcement that the owner of the building which houses the LINK has sold the building, leading to the need for a new home for the ministries served in that facility by June 30, 2014. Learning from the past, our administrators decided to take this opportunity to go right to the people to ask them what they hoped for and what they needed from their parish, not just for LINK ministries but also for all of our mutual needs.

## *Working Together: We are One in the Spirit*

Through surveys, interviews and vision groups, conducted in the early spring, the people of St. Isidore spoke. They challenged parish leadership to make the vision for their church become reality, at a price that the community could support. From the initial option of building a stand-alone, all-purpose, multi-generational building costing up to \$8 million, our leaders heeded the opinions of the people that a more modest and less costly option would be more viable. Directed by the wishes of the laity, the administration worked very thoughtfully and deliberately with their staff and architects to meet each need, with an identifiable price of \$1.5 million. Father Jim, Tom Norton, Sietze deWaard, our Parish Council Chair at the time, and Lorraine Nelson, our capital campaign consultant, worked with Jack Hayes of the Frederick Quinn Corporation and Bill Sturm of Serena Sturm Architects to ensure that all ministries would be able to flourish in the future space. Parish staff from all ministries in these areas were at the planning table as well: Adult Formation, the Hispanic Community, Human Needs, Music, Religious Education, the School, Worship and Youth Ministry. The entire group worked together to construct a joyful vision of our parish for the future.



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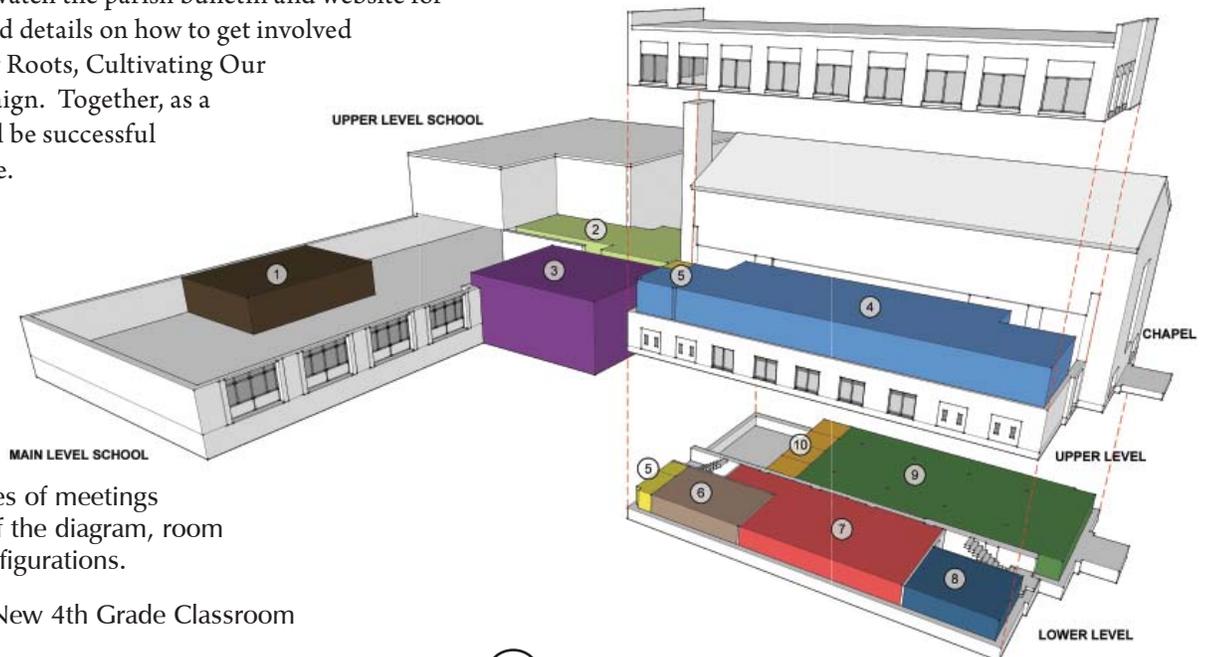
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## Working Together: We are One in the Spirit...

Here are the plans for making this vision a reality:

- In August, efforts for the Honoring Our Roots, Cultivating Our Future capital campaign have begun. Everyone will be invited to participate in the campaign over the course of the next several months.
- One of the campaign projects will be to build a 900 square-foot addition to the school, which will connect to the chapel. During the day, this will house our preschool class, and in the evenings, it will accommodate ministries by serving as a meeting space. All of our early grade levels at the school will then be together. Our LINK Youth Ministry will move into re-outfitted chapel building space to be shared with a new location for the school's library learning center. We will build an elevator to the chapel so that our physically challenged parishioners may finally enjoy the chapel, with accessible restrooms nearby. As our parish comes up to its centennial, our leaders are proud to make our beautiful chapel available to every member of our St. Isidore family.
- Our priests will return to campus: we will sell the current house and use the proceeds to help pay for construction of a new home for our parish fathers on parish grounds.
- A Perpetual Adoration Chapel will be created from existing space in the church, accessible day or night. This reflects a deep-seated belief that just as we Catholic Christians find purpose and renewal each week in the Eucharist, we can soon visit a sanctuary open at each hour for all to pray and seek refuge.

Please be certain to watch the parish bulletin and website for more information and details on how to get involved in the Honoring Our Roots, Cultivating Our Future capital campaign. Together, as a parish family, we will be successful in building the future.



Attend one of a series of meetings for an explanation of the diagram, room renovations and configurations.

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| ① New 4th Grade Classroom   | ⑥ Renovated Kitchen        |
| ② New Computer Room   | ⑦ New Recreation Room      |
| ③ New Preschool / Meeting Room<br>(new construction)                  | ⑧ New Accessible Restrooms |
| ④ New Learning Resource Center /<br>Youth and Adult Small Group Areas | ⑨ New Large Meeting Rooms  |
| ⑤ New Elevator  | ⑩ New Offices              |

## St. Isidore's Summer camp returned this June with the theme of "Kingdom Rocks".

The camp had over 100 campers and was directed by Lisa Lagina and Laura Polido with the help of 60 volunteers. The volunteers consisted of several adults but was mainly composed of teenagers who gave their time to help the kids have a great summer camp experience.

Every day the youngsters began their day in song and dance and then broke into different groups including Epic Bible Adventures and Imagination Station.

Creating a Unity Circle

Building the food pyramid

Rejoicing on stage

# Kingdom Rocks

Story and Photos by Ryan Griffin



The kids explored a bible story each day. I experienced the students building a wall made of paper bags with stones of newspaper as the rubble foundation to hold the wall. They explored their creativity with various arts and crafts like Prayer Pals which involved writing the names of people on seven Popsicle sticks and putting them in a colored plastic cup; then they would pray for one person each day of the week.

Besides rejoicing in prayer through song and dance, the kids had regular exercise every day through games designed by the teens to help create community spirit. Halfway through the morning, they took a healthy snack break prepared by the "rock star" kitchen volunteers.

Each day of camp was brought to a close with more song and dance. Campers contributed to a community service project by

bringing cans of food every day building a pyramid to help support the food pantry.

As exciting and energizing as camp was when I visited, the one thing that struck me was the dedication and passion the teens showed in helping out the kids. Teens have been helping out at summer camp throughout the years. For some of the teens it was their fifth or sixth year and some it was their first time. One teen in particular started as kid in the camp many years ago grew out of camp; came back as a volunteer. Plans are already in place for next year's camp. Volunteers always welcome. For more information on how to get involved or send your kid to camp contact Vera Zielinski at 630-529-9191 or email at [vzielinski@stisidoreparish.org](mailto:vzielinski@stisidoreparish.org).

*This liturgical year the gospel readings are from Luke. Have you been listening (or better yet) reading, them? Each quote below is from Jesus speaking in this gospel. Fill in the missing word; the fulfillment of the prophecies is the center word.*

# Gospel of Luke Challenge

## Clues:

- 1 ...the one who \_\_\_\_\_ himself will be exalted
2. God knows your \_\_\_\_\_
3. If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his \_\_\_\_\_ daily and follow me
4. Ask and you will receive, \_\_\_\_\_ and you will find
5. Now if \_\_\_\_\_ calls him Lord, how can he be his son
6. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will \_\_\_\_\_
7. I have come to set the \_\_\_\_\_ on fire

1. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

### Harvester

A publication of St. Isidore Church for all registered parishioners, so that they may share in the vitality of our faith community



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# The Annulment Process

Written by Deacon Terry Summiskey

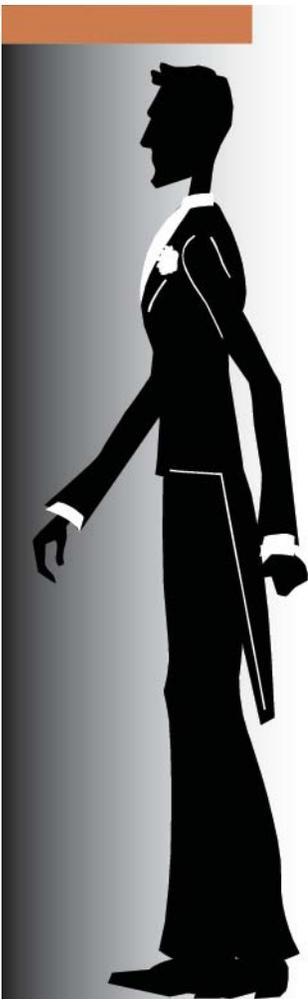
*These words were said by an upset woman on a Catholic radio talk show not that long ago:* “I joined the Catholic Church to help make my marriage stronger. Now I can’t believe it! It’s the Church that is tearing my marriage apart!” It is the type of complaint I’ve heard often in my 12-year ministry to separated and divorced Catholics. Most people are confused and angry at what they think the Church teaches about love, sex, marriage, and divorce. I listened as the woman shared her frustration. Married outside the Church for five years to a baptized Catholic, they figured if she converted it would help deepen their relationship.

She continued, “I went through RCIA, was received into the Church last Easter, was so happy and I love the Church and being Catholic; but my husband had a prior marriage. No one told us that we had to get an annulment. We thought that our marriage would be blessed, but now the pastor told us no more marital relations! I’m confused. My husband is so angry that he has stopped going to Mass. I thought becoming Catholic would help our marriage - now it’s worse than ever. What should we do?”

My heart went out to her! I know she’s not alone. There are hundreds of thousands of people who have left (still leave) the Church because of unresolved marriage issues. Most parishes in the Joliet Diocese, including St. Isidore, have well-trained persons (ordained priests and deacons, as well as lay ministers) who understand Church teachings, can explain the annulment process clearly, and make sure these couples are not abandoned or blindly pushed through the process like this woman on the radio. We do not want the divorced, who are often deeply ashamed or assume that the Church rejects them to be left hanging when they are starving for the truth.

We explain the overall process and just as attorneys seek the fullness of truth in a civil case so too, does the Church need the truth of what was happening in the minds and hearts of the couple up to and on their wedding day. Because marriage is both a private and public matter, the Church requires good witnesses as well. We discredit the myths, honor the person and their protests, help the petitioner wait and call the divorced to a higher place of holiness.

If you would like to speak with one of us to be your pastoral advocate, please call the Office of Liturgy and speak with Deacon Terry Cummiskey, at 630-295-8350 or [tcummiskey@stisidoreparish.org](mailto:tcummiskey@stisidoreparish.org).



# Change is Good

Written by Angela Orlando  
Photos by Bill Archer

*If you've been away for the summer, you're in for a treat.* We have been given the gift of two new parochial vicars (yes, priests) who the stay-at-homes have gotten to know during the long, hot summer.

He's Back. If you've been in the parish for several years, you probably met Father Matthew Nathan when he was a seminarian. He spent his summer here as an intern in 2007 while studying for the priesthood. It was a good summer for him, learning about the culture of a parish life that was not the same as St. Scholastica in Woodridge, where he spent his formative years as the oldest of three siblings. Father Matt's parents live in the same house and same parish where he grew up.

Young Matthew attended public grammar school and completed high school at Benet Academy. In high school, he played football as a wide receiver. After college at the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana) he entered Mundelein Seminary and was ordained in 2009. Fr. Matt's first assignment was at St. Joseph in Downers Grove followed by three years at St. Mary in West Chicago where he soon settled into the parish life. He learned Spanish during his time in Mexico and practiced it during his time at St. Mary.

When asked what was the best aspect of priesthood, his smiling answer was "getting to know different people," although he added that he recognized several parishioners from his time here during his internship.



On the other hand: Father Josh(ua) Miller became a priest in the Joliet Diocese by a very circuitous route which proves that if God wants you, he gets you no matter where you are.

Although Josh was baptized at age four, his family didn't practice their faith but he came to the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in college through reading and classes. Asked what he liked to do, the list is long: reading, hiking, fishing, hunting (only what you can eat), camping and computers. Oh, and he's a Cubs fan. Seminarian Josh helped teach RCIA at Immaculate Conception in Elmhurst with Father Jim. He interned at St. Peter and Paul in Naperville. After ordination, Fr. Josh headed back to his first parish assignment at SS. Peter and Paul, a very traditional church in the heart of the city. St. Isidore presents a culture that is different.



His father was an executive in the Boy Scouts of America and they moved. A lot. Born in Omaha, NE, moved to Ann Arbor, MI on to Decatur, IL and finally to Joliet. He's also an Eagle Scout. His older sister has one child and lives in Joliet. Several schools later, he attended the U of I at the Champaign-Urbana campus. After graduation, he taught High School English and Science.

The best part of being a priest is celebrating the Mass; he's not fond of meetings but acknowledges that they are necessary to keep any organization running.

Come celebrate  
with our newest parishioners

# Alpha

Written by Barb Mendralla

alpha  
for  
catholics



Pope Francis recently said, “Jesus is a historic person with whom a personal relationship can be formed.”

Faith in Christ means belief in a real person, not a theoretical being.” Alpha, a ten-week course that begins Friday, September 6, is a tool to create your personal relationship with Christ.

Leonor Carvajal, Co-director of Adult Formation, shared that Alpha had great success earlier this year when it was offered to the Hispanic community. Around 140 people participated in the program and Leonor feels many participants had a life-changing experience.

Alpha “provides an opportunity to encounter the love of God in a personal relationship through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.” (alphausa.org) Deacon Steve Mitchell, National Director of Alpha for Catholics, states, “Alpha is brilliant at, offering people a place, a space to ask any question in a non-threatening, non-judgmental environment, inviting them to examine the claims of Christ against the backdrop of their lives and the culture.”

The sessions are led by lay people and begin with a dinner. Prayer and music follow the dinner and then participants view a video presentation on the basic beliefs of Christianity. Small group sessions follow the video and give the participants an opportunity for sharing and asking questions. Some of the topics discussed in the weekly sessions include:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- How does God guide us?

A weekend retreat on October 26 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. will introduce participants to the Person of the Holy Spirit in a way many Catholics have never experienced. During the retreat, participants will learn about, and discuss questions regarding, the Holy Spirit.

Registration for Alpha will be held after Mass on August 24 and 25 as well as August 31 and September 1. You may also register by contacting the Adult Faith Formation Office at 630-295-8351 or lcarvajal@stisidoreparish.org

## ... and for the Second Course

Have you ever finished a delicious meal and craved more? This craving is what many participants feel after finishing Alpha. One participant stated, “The program ended too quickly. There should be another course that follows this one.”

Catholicism 201 is the answer to this craving. This ten-week series begins in January and focuses on some of the nuts and bolts of the Catholic faith such as Church, Sacraments, Mary and the Saints, and Catholic morality.

Fr. James Mallon, Founder of the John Paul II Media Institute sums up the reason why Catholicism 201 follows Alpha in saying, “Trying to give people catechesis who don’t have a personal relationship with Christ, is like trying to plant seeds in concrete, it doesn’t work.” The personal relationship developed in Alpha is the fertile soil for learning more about the Catholic faith.

The format of the sessions is the same as Alpha and includes a retreat. Contact Leonor Carvajal, Co-director of Adult Formation at (630) 295-8351 or lcarvajal@stisidoreparish.org for more information on Catholicism 201.

Answers: Massiah

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. h u M b l e s | 4. S e e k   |
| 2. h e A r t     | 5. D a v i d |
| 3. c r o S s     | 6. l A u g h |
|                  | 7. e a r t H |



*Oh what a beautiful morning..*

As the students performed in the production of OKLAHOMA



## Knights of Columbus

With Bishop Siegel and Fr Jim,  
Confirmation Weekend



*Did you know* that the 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration every month is part of St. Isidore's effort to uphold the Culture of Life? So, too, was last year's Speaker Series on the Catholic understanding of marriage. St. Isidore invites its parishioners to embrace a Culture of Life in many ways.

Human life is sacred, from its humble beginning through its earthly conclusion. The Church has always endeavored to safeguard life in all circumstances where it is endangered. The Diocese of Joliet, through the Office of Human Dignity, has combined the work of Respect Life, Peace and Social Justice, and Missions, to safeguard the "sanctity of human life by increasing awareness on embryo research, reproductive technology, love and marriage, contraception, abortion, people with disabilities, end of our days and the death penalty while inviting and encouraging action and advocacy" United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as well as continuing the work of Catholic Social Teaching. Human Dignity calls us all to become aware, educated, act on our convictions and belief, and pray.

At St. Isidore, we have followed the Diocese's lead by aligning Life, Peace and Justice, and Mission issues under the common heading of Human Dignity. Every week its parent office, Human Needs, renews this invitation on its pages in the bulletin. It begins with a short passage to highlight some aspect or challenge of human dignity, and then presents opportunities for involvement, whether by prayer, donation or a more hands-on form of service. These pages are a good source of direction for those who want to become more involved in protecting human dignity for all.

Programs include:

- Spiritual Adoption (praying for an unborn child until its birth)
- Baby Bottles for Life, (an opportunity to donate money to support crisis pregnancy centers)
- Speakers and brochures on Catholic teaching concerning life issues (from the unborn, through marriage and parenting, and on to the aged and infirm)

The invitation to become aware, become educated, pray, and work for the Human Dignity of all is renewed every week in the bulletin. If you have any questions, contact Ane Berg at 630-295-6890 or by e-mail at [aberg@stisidoreparish.org](mailto:aberg@stisidoreparish.org)

## Invited to Build a Culture of Life

Written by Michael Fassbender

### Fall Faith Formation Classes

By Barb Mendralla

Galatians is the Bible book that will be offered for the Fall Bible Study Classes. Both the mixed class that meets on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and the women's class that meets on Thursday mornings from 9:00 – 11:00 will study this book. The resources are once again from the Great Adventure series by Jeff Cavins.

In addition to these classes, a new class will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Saturday beginning this Fall. The Walking Toward Eternity series created by Jeff and Emily Cavins, focuses on seven key virtues and outlines practical steps for living them in your life. Carol Osburn, Coordinator of Adult Formation, will facilitate the sessions which include a video presentation, praying and meditating with Scripture (lectio divina) and journaling.

Contact the Adult Faith Formation Office at 630-289-8351 for more information about these programs.

Written by Tracy Locanto

## Tech Savvy

The Your St. Isidore Auction, 3 on 3, and clothing sale have been successful in raising funds to improve school technology. According to Principal Cyndi Collins, technology is a very important building block in education today. “Students cannot go into high school without knowledge and aptitude of computers and the internet.”

At St. Isidore School (SIS) students learn how to use the internet and to research projects the correct way. They learn how to access information safely, about copyright rules and what plagiarizing means. Computers and tablets are used by all students in the classrooms and in the computer lab for keyboarding skills, math learning games, special research projects, reading and English.

Starting in preschool, each teacher uses some form of technology in the classroom every day. Whiteboards and Mimeos are used with computers or projectors to display teaching materials. Smart Boards are wireless interactive whiteboards, and computers and tablets provide hands-on individual learning.

Proceeds from the 2012 auction “Technology Fund a Cause” and some of the school improvement funds were used to purchase new tablets and a cart, Mimeos, LCD projectors, subscriptions to online textbooks and educational programs, additional electrical outlets, printer toner, and computer maintenance throughout the year.

Profits from the 2013 auction “Technology Fund a Cause” and some of the school improvements funds were used to update school security, purchase expensive software upgrades for 60 computers, and buy Chrome books (mini laptops), additional mimeos, Dock cameras (3 dimensional overhead projectors), and new LCD projector bulbs (\$600 per bulb).

Support for Technology at SIS has become essential due to the growing impact technology has in education today.

May Crowning by St. Isidore students



Photos by Bill Archer

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## SIS Leadership Academy

Photos By Mike Yerly

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The SIS Student Leadership Academy, guided by the school social worker Trevor Simpson won Third Place nationally in the Catholic Safety Grant Contest. The Academy proposed to improve the safety of school procedures for parents dropping off and picking up their children. They have received a \$500 grant to implement their ideas.

7th and 8th grade students pictured collecting craft supplies for a local Nursing Home: Henry Breyne, Brendan Dunbar, Zach Barry, Isabella Sansone, Jenny Hauser, Donovan Maloney, Olivia Dorman, and Jenna Jameison (not pictured Marissa Testolin).

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## Maloney Scholarship

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8th grade student Donovan Maloney was awarded both the prestigious CCW Bishop Romeo R. Blanchette Scholarship and the Kazma Family Scholarship. He will attend St. Francis High School in the Fall. Donovan is pictured with SIS principal Cyndi Collins and retired Joliet Bishop Joseph L. Imesch.

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## What will you read inside...

### *Kingdom Rocks...*

*what did our children do this summer*

### *Change is Good...*

*the gift of new vicars*

### *The Annulment Process...*

*your pastoral advocate*

*and more*



## St. Isidore “Bricklayers”

Unofficially named as the Art and Environment “bricklayers”, Maria Price and her children, Mary and Tommy, have the responsibility to set up the “brick wall” around the St. Isidore tree that adorns the sanctuary in the church. While it is not exactly a glamour job, they faithfully and with great precision place the bricks around the tree. It is their glory to Our Lord.

*The business model is simple:* gather basic, useful items where they are plentiful and little regarded; sell them where they are rare and needed; and use the proceeds to finance education among the most vulnerable of Africa’s children. This was the idea of Rwandan-born Providence Rubingisa, and it is now appearing at St. Isidore under the unassuming name of Stuff for the Poor.

The idea grew out of visits to American garage sales. Here were items that would be useful and affordable to many Africans, if only they had the opportunity to attend such sales. The project began with the purchase of extensive lots of garage sale goods, which would be sent to Africa for sale. As the project matured, Providence came to specialize in the collection of shoes. Other articles of clothing and common home supplies will also be accepted, but shoes are the mainstay of this effort. They can be well-used and no longer suitable for dressy occasions, but they do need to be in good condition. They will, after all, be used for everyday wear.

By itself, the provision of shoes to those without access to footwear might seem a worthy enough goal, but it is only the first step in the program. The money raised from the sale of these shoes is used to fund other projects serving the neediest of Africa’s poor. Currently, the principal objective is the education of orphans in Tanzania. All expenses for 120 children studying at the Chagalikwa

## Build a Better Lives in Africa

*Collect Stuff for the Poor*

Written by Michael Fassbender

Boarding School are furnished by the proceeds of the sale of shoes. The sale of 420 shoes can support a single orphan for an entire school year.

Providence has been reaching out to churches and other charitable organizations to expand the program. St. Isidore has joined them, and Stuff for the Poor has been a ministry here for over three years. Recently, a receptacle for shoes has been added to the parking lot donation bins.

If you wish to donate shoes, please remember that they need to be in usable condition. Also, general-use shoes, including tennis shoes, are welcome, but not boots or sandals -- or roller blades. If you would like to participate in this “fast-service” charitable ministry, drop your shoes off in the Stuff for the Poor collection bin in the church parking lot. For more information please contact Ane Berg, Human Needs Director, 630-295-6890 or by e-mail at [aberg@stisidoreparish.org](mailto:aberg@stisidoreparish.org)

