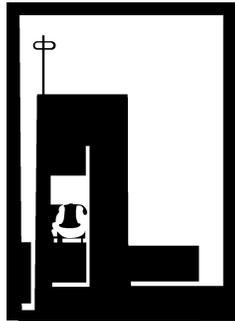


The Community of St. Matthew

*... exists
in the world
as a visible
expression of
God's love.*



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

A week ago Governor George Ryan of Illinois gave his last speech before leaving office. The site of the speech was the Northwestern University College of Law. Governor Ryan is leaving office after just one term. He is under investigation for graft and corruption. By all accounts, he is not a paragon of virtue. Some have called him a stereotypic, Illinois, political hack. Yet, the specter of the arbitrary, capricious – and therefore immoral – death penalty system of Illinois haunted him.

In his final act as governor he commuted the death sentences of all on death row in the state of Illinois. He did this after more than 3 years of effort to try to get the state legislature and the courts to review and fix a criminal justice system he calls “broken”. Following are excerpts of his lengthy speech which can be found in its entirety on the New York Times website – www.nytimes.com.

“The other day, I received a call from Nelson Mandela. I was at Manny’s having a corned beef sandwich, and I talked to Nelson Mandela for about 20 minutes. The message he basically delivered to me was that the United States sets the example for justice and fairness for the rest of the world. We’re not in league with Europe, Canada, Mexico, most of South and Central America. These countries rejected the death penalty. We are partners in death with several third world countries. Did you know even Russia has called a moratorium?”

The death penalty has been abolished in 12 states, and in none of these states has the homicide rate increased. Now here’s a good number for you to remember: In Illinois last year we had about 1,000 murders, and only 2 percent of that 1,000 were sentenced to death. I want to know, where is the fairness and equality in that? The death penalty in Illinois is not imposed fairly or uniformly because of the absence of standards for 102 counties in this state. State’s attorneys decide whether to request the death sentence. Should geography be a factor in determining who gets the death sentence? I don’t think it should, but in Illinois it makes a difference. You are five times more likely to get a death sentence for first-degree murder in the rural areas of this state than you are right here in Cook County. Five times more likely. Where is the fairness in this justice system? Where is the proportionality? . . .

I never intended to be an activist on this issue, needless to say. Soon after taking office I watched in surprise and amazement as freed death row inmate Anthony Porter was released from jail. As a free man, he ran into Northwestern University Professor Dave Protesch — where’s David? — It was a memory I’ll never forget, seeing little Anthony Porter run into your arms as a free man. He poured his heart and soul, David did, into proving Porter’s innocence with his journalism students. Anthony Porter was 48 hours away from being wheeled into the execution chamber, where the state would kill him.

It would all be so antiseptic, and most of us would not have even paused, except that Anthony Porter was innocent. He was innocent of the double murder for which he had been condemned to die.

And after Mr. Porter’s case there was a report by Chicago Tribune reporters Steve Mills and Ken Armstrong that documented

the systemic failures of our capital punishment system. And you’ve all read it. I can’t imagine: half, half, if you will, of the nearly 300 capital cases in Illinois had been reversed for a new trial or re-sentencing. How many of you here today who are professionals can get by with 50 percent accuracy?

Thirty-three of the death row inmates were represented at trial by an attorney who had later been disbarred or at some point suspended from the practice of law. Of the more than 160 death row inmates, 35 were African-American defendants who had been convicted or condemned to die not by a jury of their peers, but by all-white juries. More than two thirds of the inmates on death row were African-American. And 46 inmates were convicted on the basis of testimony from jailhouse informants.

I can recall looking at these cases and the information from the Mills/Armstrong series and I asked myself, and my staff: How does that happen? How in God’s name does that happen? In America, how does it happen? I’ve been asking this question for nearly three years and so far nobody’s answered this question.

Then over the next few months, there were 3 more exonerated men, freed because their sentence hinged on a jailhouse informant, or new DNA technology proved beyond a shadow of doubt their innocence. 13 men found innocent, 12 executed. As I reported yesterday, there is not a doubt in my mind that the number of innocent men freed from our death row stands at 17, now, because yesterday we pardoned Aaron Patterson and Madison Hobley and Stanley Howard and Leroy Orange.

If you really want to know what’s outrageous and unconscionable, outrageous and unconscionable, 17 exonerated death row inmates is nothing short of a catastrophic failure. Our capital system is haunted by the demon of error: error in determining guilt, and error in determining who among the guilty deserves to die. Because of all of these reasons today I am commuting the sentences of all death row inmates. I shall no longer tinker with the machinery of death.

This is a blanket commutation. I didn’t believe I would do it myself. I realize it will draw ridicule, scorn and anger from many who oppose this decision. They’ll say that I am usurping the decisions of judges and juries and state legislators. But as I have said, the people of our state have vested in me to act in the interest of justice. Even if the exercise of my power becomes my burden, I’ll bear it. Because our Constitution compels it. I sought this office, and even in my final days of holding it I can’t shrink from the obligations to justice and fairness that it demands.

There have been many days and many nights where my staff and I have been deprived of sleep in order to conduct the exhaustive review of the system. But I can tell you this: I’m going to sleep well tonight knowing I made the right decision.”

Illinois is not unique. The same arguments might well have been made in Texas and Oklahoma and New York. It is long past time to declare at least a moratorium, if not the abolition, of the death penalty.

Yours truly, Stephen Adrian Pastor

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS



KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP FOR 2003-2004

Thursday, February 6 is St. Matthew's School Kindergarten round-up for the next school year. Mark your calendars and plan to attend at either 9:00 AM or 7:00 PM on the 6th. Teachers, staff, administration, and parents will be available to answer questions and accept registration. Watch the bulletin for more information, or call the school at 224-6912 for details.

CHILD CARE NEWS

Thank you to the very generous parishioner who donated the coat that we needed. This past week our pre-school class (with many volunteers) went to see "Sesame Street Live" at the Target Center. What an adventure we had! Please stop by and visit when you have a chance.

PARISH EVENTS

FOOTBALL FEVER ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

If you've got the fever, we've got the cure. The Men's Club has the cure and a way you can support St. Matthew's School and their athletic programs. Here's our 3-step plan for recovery

1. Buy a raffle ticket for \$2.00 and you could win \$1,000, \$500 or \$250. (Buy your tickets after Mass or see a Men's Club member.)
2. Come to the SUPERBOWL PARTY on January 26th in the St. Matthew's Social Hall and watch the game on a BIG SCREEN TV. Snacks, food at halftime and cold refreshments all for \$10.00 per person.
3. Repeat step 1 as necessary.

CALL TO MINISTER

Our Parish community is in need of **Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound** and also **Hospital Ministers**. Training and support are offered for both. If you are caring, loving, and a good listener and are willing to serve your brothers and sisters—you have what it takes! This is your personal call. For more information or to offer to minister in one of these areas, call Sister Mary Colleen, Pastoral Minister, at the Parish Center 651-224-9793. Thank you for considering these ministries.

THANK YOU FROM OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HOME

St. Matthew's parishioners have once again shown their generosity to Our Lady of Good Counsel. A van load of paper products, toiletry items, and canned goods was delivered to the home last week, along with monetary donations totaling \$2,402.70. The sisters and staff were most grateful for everything. Also, a thank you to the Rosary Society members who helped with the collection at the church doors. Thank you all, and God bless you for your generosity and concern for others.
Corinne Brengman

RIDE NEEDED

Helen Eidsmoe, a resident at 514 Humboldt (across from the school) is looking for a ride to attend the 6:45 AM daily mass. If you could offer Helen a ride, please call her at 225-8136. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	January 19
You can order your Girl Scout Cookies after all masses this weekend.	
Monday	January 20
7:00 AM, SH	Martin Luther King Jr. Brkfst and Speaker; sponsored by the United Negro College Fund, General Mills
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:00 PM, XC	Brownie Meeting
Tuesday	January 21
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	January 22
12-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:30 PM, SC	Religious Education, Grades 1-10
Thursday	January 23
12-7:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, SH	Parish Council Mtg
Friday	January 24
Saturday	January 25
Sunday	January 26

Abbreviations:

MC – Main Church
CH – Chapel
PC – Parish Center
SH – Social Hall
SC – School
CC – Child Care
XC – Extended Day

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday offering for January 12, 2003: \$ 7,775.48

Youth treasure for January 12, 2003: \$30.00

Stewardship is a way of life—a graciousness by which I return to God a portion of what God has lavished on me.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 19: George Gubash
Robert Stickler
Tom Raymond

Monday, January 20:

Tuesday, January 21: Albert Hartmann

Wednesday, January 22: Margaret Norman

Thursday, January 23: Frank Souter

Friday, January 24: John Einberger

Saturday, January 25: Bernard Ferber
Donald Neff
Decd. Members of the
Devlin family

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of January 19, 2003

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a,
17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25-8:6; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18

Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31;
Mk 1:14-20

NEWLY MARRIED RETREAT DAY

The Office of Marriage and Family life invites all newly married couples (0-7 years) to the 2nd Annual Retreat Day, on Saturday, February 1 at the Church of St. Charles Borromeo in St. Anthony. For details, call 651-291-4553 or go to the website at www.archspm.org/family/.

HOLY SPIRIT HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SILENT AUCTION

Their "Tropical Cruise" themed fundraiser will be on February 1 from 6-11 PM. For more details call 651-690-5892.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office 651-224-9793

Pastoral Staff

Pastor *Father Stephen Adrian*
Priest in Residence.....*Father Marty Warren*
Deacon *Rev. John Murphy*
Pastoral Administrator
Dir. Education & Formation*Scott Breimhorst*
Dir. Music & Liturgy..... *Dana McCarthy*
Dir. Pastoral Ministry.....*Sr. Mary Colleen Hau*
Dir. Child Care.....*Maureen Gitlin*
Business Administrator*Patty Flynn*
Administrative Assistant.....*Nicole Johnson*
Dir. Food Service*Alice Schletty*
Parish Engineer..... *David Rosas*

Phone Numbers

Fax..... 651-228-9448
Parish School..... 651-224-6912
Extended Day..... 651-228-1535
Child Care Center..... 651-224-1450
Prayerline Receiver 651-222-3622 or 651-224-2903

Schedule of Services

Weekend Liturgies Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Weekday Liturgies Monday-Friday: 6:45 AM
1st Friday: 6:45 AM & 5:15 PM

Reconciliation

Monday.....7:15 AM
Saturday 4:00 PM

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents who are parishioners make arrangements with the Pastor or the Deacon one month prior to baptism.

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples make arrangements with the Pastor or the Deacon three months prior to wedding.

Parish Council Members

Kathy Goldstein	Linda Sellars
Marty Olson	Jeff Gilberg
Paul Kempe	Suzanne Clarke
John Finnegan	Tim Jack
Doug Kennedy	Becky Montgomery
Wally Nelson	John Sekevitch

Committee Chairs

Finance
Education Advisory Michele Edwards
Liturgy