

The Community of St. Matthew



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



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

Margaret F. Brinig and Nicole Stelle Garnet writing this year in the *Notre Dame Law Review* reflect on the impact of Catholic urban schools not only on students and families, but also on the neighborhoods of which they are a part. I print here both the introduction to the study and the conclusion.

I believe this study has something to offer in the ongoing strategic plan for the parishes and schools of the Archdiocese.

Yours truly,



Stephen Adrian
Pastor

INTRODUCTION

This Article explores the implications of a dramatic shift in the American educational landscape—the rapid disappearance of Catholic schools from urban neighborhoods. Primarily because of their strong track record of educating disadvantaged children, these school closures are a source of significant concern in education policy circles. While we are inclined to agree that Catholic school closures contribute to a broader educational crisis, this Article does not address well-rehearsed debates about educational outcomes. Rather than focusing on the work done inside the schools, we focus on what goes on outside them. Specifically, using three decades of data from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, we seek to understand what a Catholic school means to an urban neighborhood. Our study suggests Catholic elementary schools are important generators of neighborhood social capital: We find that neighborhood social cohesion decreases and disorder increases following an elementary school closure, even after we control for numerous demographic variables that would tend to predict neighborhood decline and disaggregate the school closure decision from those variables as well. Our study—the first of its kind—contributes in a unique and important way to ongoing debates about both land use and education policy for reasons that we explore in detail in the Article.

Catholic Schools and Urban Neighborhoods

CONCLUSION

For decades, scholars and policymakers have debated the merits of urban Catholic schools. They have asked whether these schools can be trusted to inculcate democratic values, why these schools succeed at educating disadvantaged children when others fail, whether these schools can and/or should be included in school choice programs, and whether, if they were, their educational successes could be replicated. This Article asks a different question: What do urban Catholic schools mean to their neighborhoods? Our study—the first of its kind—suggests that they mean a great deal. We find that Catholic schools are important sources of neighborhood social capital in the poor urban communities that arguably need it the most: They appear to suppress social disorder, increase social cohesion, and bolster collective efficacy in these neighborhoods—all findings strongly suggesting that residents' quality of life decreases when a school closes (regardless of whether they have children enrolled in the closed school). We believe that our study contributes in an important and unique way to debates about both land use policy and education reform, and that our contributions to both debates point in favor of expanding school choice programs to include private schools, including Catholic schools like the ones that we study. Leaving the merits of school choice aside, however, we are also left convinced that now is the time to engage to the question of what measures, private and/or public, can be taken to strengthen and preserve urban Catholic schools. These schools are an endangered species. Unless steps are taken to save them, they will be lost forever to their students and their neighborhoods.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

FALL FESTIVAL CORNER

What is better in the summertime than a root beer float. Our Fall Festival is known for the greatest! Your donations of A & W Root Beer would be truly appreciated so we can continue this delicious, cooling booth. All other 2 liter bottles of soda donated are used for the many games at the festival. Any donated crafts made by our women or men are welcome. They can fit into many of our booths and will, at the same time, show the artistry in our parish. **The next Fall festival meeting will be on Wednesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center.** All chairmen and anyone interested in helping in any way should attend this meeting. You can bring your donations anytime now to the Parish Center, Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 4 pm, or on weekends bring your donations to Mass and leave them in the back of church.

SAINTS BASEBALL GAME TRIP

The annual St. Matthew's trip to a Saint's Baseball game hosted by the St. Matthew's Men's Club is on Wednesday August 25. A bus will leave St. Matthew's Church at 5:45 and Gallagher's Bar at 6:00. This is the last home game of the season. The Saint's are thrilled that we coming and will have a large fireworks show for us after the game! Food and refreshments will be served in the Saint's parking lot prior to the game. Cost is \$25 per adult and \$15 per child (16 or under) and includes ticket, bus, and pre-game food and refreshments. A down payment of \$10 per ticket is required. Contact Tim Nowak – cell 612-269-9471, or email to timothy.nowak@usfamily.net.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Feast of the Assumption: August 15 is one week away. Make plans now to attend Mass either in the church [Saturday at 5:00PM or Sunday at 8:00AM] or in the park [Sunday at 11:00AM]. Mass will NOT BE CELEBRATED in the church at the usual 10:30 time.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of August 8, 2010

Sunday: Wis 18:6-9/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40
 Monday: Ez 1:2-5, 24-28c/Mt 17:22-27
 Tuesday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Jn 12:24-26
 Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Mt 18:15-20
 Thursday: Ez 12:1-12/Mt 18:21-19:1
 Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Mt 19:3-12
 Saturday: Ez 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32/Mt 19:13-15
 Next Sunday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28
 Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

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THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday | August 8 |
| Monday | August 9 |
| 3:00 PM, SH | Loaves and Fishes |
| Tuesday | August 10 |
| 9:00 AM, PC | Alums & Friends |
| 2:00-6:00 PM, PC | St. Mary's Clinic |
| 3:00 PM, SH | Loaves and Fishes |
| Wednesday | August 11 |
| 1:00-6:00 PM, PC | St. Mary's Clinic |
| 3:00 PM, SH | Loaves and Fishes |
| 8:00 PM, SH | Men's Club |
| Thursday | August 12 |
| 3:00 PM, SH | Loaves and Fishes |
| Friday | August 13 |
| Saturday | August 14 |
| Sunday | August 15 |
| Feast of the Assumption | |
| 11:00 AM Mass at Cherokee Park | |



Abbreviations:

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

STEWARDSHIP

Am I waiting for the “right:” time to become a good steward? Do I plan to share my time and talents “later?” Today’s Gospel warns those who are procrastinating about stewardship to be prepared—“at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Sharing: Thanks to all faithful stewards: \$10,257 was given last weekend. Also: \$688 in school envelopes and plate; \$10 for the food shelf; \$38 in Assumption envelopes.

Service: Served funeral luncheons... loaves & fishes... Eucharist to the homebound... money counter... volunteer at parish office... lector.

Time: Daily prayer, rosary, mass, spiritual reading.

Youth: \$7.40, Thank you! They wrote: weeded the garden... organized my desk.

Missionary thanks

“This is to thank you most sincerely for giving us the opportunity to share our faith and also to solicit some financial support for the Catholic Diocese of Kitui. Father Peter said it was a pleasure sharing time with you, sharing and praying with your parishioners. Father Peter also told me that you and your parishioners were very receptive and he was delighted to be with you over the weekend. Their generous contributions and prayers will go a long way in propagating the Kingdom of God in the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya.”

Family thanks

Along with my children and grandchildren, I say a most sincere and humble ‘thank you’ to all the members of the parish community especially those who observed Mary’s death by visiting, vigiling, singing and praying at the funeral, serving the lunch, giving memorials to many different charities. We have tough days ahead, but we treasure the relationships we have with so many in this wonderful parish community. John Riehle

ASSUMPTION Mass in the park and picnic

Remember the Mass schedule for next weekend: 5:00PM Sat and 8:00AM Sun Masses as usual. NO 10:30 Sunday Mass in Church; rather 11:00AM Mass in Cherokee Park—at the large shelter—followed by the annual parish picnic.

1. For Mass, please bring something on which to sit [along with your praying and singing voices and your stewardship contribution].
2. For picnic, please bring an hors d’oeuvres, a salad or a dessert [with serving utensil either in a disposable, or well-marked container].
3. Paper products [and plastic tools] courtesy of the Rosary; Men’s club will supply meat and buns and drink. Family and children’s games are yet to come together...do you have some ideas or energy for these? [Please call the parish center.]

PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office..... 651-224-9793
 Fax.....651-228-9448
 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-12 NN; 1-4 PM
 Web site: st-matts.org
 Bulletin Email: bulletin.editor@st-matts.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor..... *Father Stephen Adrian*
 Deacon..... *Rev. John Murphy*
 Parish Pastoral Administrator..... *John Riehle*
 Dir. Education & Formation..... *Doug Lieser*
 Dir. Music & Liturgy..... *Bonnie Faber*
 Dir. Child Care and KLT..... *Shar Lavelle*
 Bookkeeper..... *Cindy Hoffman*
 Administrative Assistant..... *Nicole Johnson*
 Dir. Food Service..... *Donna Jenniges*
 Parish Engineer..... *David Rosas*

Phone Numbers

Parish School.....651-224-6912
 KLT Kids..... 651-665-0786
 Child Care Center..... 651-224-1459
 Prayer line..... 651-686-5463 or 651-455-6886

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

Tuesday..... 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 six months prior to wedding. Must be a member of the parish

Parish Council Members

Parish Council email: parishcouncil@st-matts.org

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|-------------------|------------------|
| Karen Thompson | Georgann Henjum |
| Mark Thomford | Joyce Osborne |
| Jason Delmont | Anthony Minus |
| Dean Steinbrenner | Chris Stevens |
| Stephen Adrian | Becky Montgomery |