



Roman Candle

St. Roman Parish, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. • September 2009

Landmarks In A Changing Landscape

**From Fr. Brian Holbus
Administrator, St. Roman**

Last week I was heading south on 6th Street and was stopped at the intersection of Oklahoma Avenue. I glanced to my left and noticed what looked like an air conditioning unit built into the side of a large berm that runs along 6th Street.

Soon the light turned green and traffic began to move through the intersection. Moving south on 6th Street I wondered if younger people ever gave thought to that large berm which was built to accommodate the electric interurban railroad known as the Chicago North Shore as it entered the City of Milwaukee.

In the early 1960s our Cub Scout pack came to Milwaukee to see a movie downtown. We were startled to see that the trains that passed our house at a hundred miles per hour were a part of the traffic on 6th Street and crossed the large viaduct along with automobiles.

Now the railroad and the viaduct are gone and much of that traffic is now routed over the newly-reconfigured Marquette Interchange or on the stylish new 6th Street bridges and roundabout that are much lower than that old viaduct. The landscape has changed completely.

It is good for us to take notice of our changing landscape. Most of those changes take place gradually. I have not lived in Milwaukee County since 1990, so I occasionally find myself wondering where I am because of the new buildings and roadways.

The Hoan Bridge is no longer a “bridge to nowhere” as it was pegged in the 1970s. The Lake Parkway continues south even as there is talk of replacing the Hoan Bridge with something akin to the new 6th Street bridges.

When the landscape changes it's good to have landmarks to help us get our bearings again. Lake Michigan certainly helps us to become oriented.

On the south side of Milwaukee, in addition to the Allen Bradley clock and Miller Park, we rely on churches to provide guidance and a sense of where we are and where we are going.

Demographically, the landscape on Milwaukee's south side has changed dramatically since I was in the seminary in the 1970s, including the area in and around the St. Roman Parish boundaries.

Many of the houses that had been filled with large families of Polish and other European descendants in the 1950s and 1960s are now the homes of newly-arrived immigrants from Mexico and other parts of Latin America.

African Americans now reside on the south side of Milwaukee, prompting a lot of painful memories for those of us who remember the travails of the 1960s.

Years ago we would notice the presence of a Lutheran or Baptist church in this largely Catholic area. Now we cannot help but notice the large number of immigrants who are Muslim rather than Christian. The large mosque on the corner of South 13th Street and Layton Avenue is certainly a sign of this changing landscape.

The future belongs to those who have children. Whether it is in this neighborhood or farther out in the suburbs, these recently arrived neighbors are changing the demographic landscape of the south side of Milwaukee.

What is our role in this rapidly changing landscape? What is our identity and mission as a Catholic parish if we are to succeed in this new environment? These are questions I ask myself as I settle into my new role as administrator of Saint Roman Parish.

I do know that when I head north on 6th Street, I am awestruck and comforted by the Basilica of St. Josaphat towering over the neighborhood. When I travel north on 13th Street, I am happy to get a red

(Continued on Page 2)

Think Globally, Act Locally

**From Paul Wemlinger
St. Roman Social Justice Committee**

Think Globally, Act Locally!

It may be a tired old phrase from a bumper sticker, but like any old saying that survives the test of time, there is an element of truth to it.

Think of someone whom you admire and ask yourself, “Did he or she accomplish what they did by thinking globally and acting locally?” Chances are they did.

One of the tried and true methods for achieving success in life is to start with a vision and match it to a plan. It doesn’t have to be a great plan, elaborate with all its detail. It can be as simple as talking to one person or just doing one thing each day toward achieving your vision. That is thinking globally and acting locally.

What do you think was Jesus’ goal while He was on Earth? Was he bogged down with creating a complicated master plan or did He look at Himself as an instrument of some other plan? Was He stymied with apprehension, reservations, roadblocks and reasons why He may fail at building a new Church on Earth? No. Instead He delivered one simple message every day: “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”

He acted locally by welcoming all people to hear

His word, even when His closest friends were astounded and abhorred by it. It is true that He also taught the Twelve so that His Church would survive after His death, but even so, it was a very simple plan.

The Apostles learned by listening to Him, and became successful by committing to Him, His message and His plan. Even after living with Him for all those years, the Apostles still needed the touch of the Holy Spirit to find courage to venture out beyond the closed doors where they hid after His Crucifixion.

Today we are very much like the Apostles of 2,000 years ago. We all have a vision of what social justice is. We all have a long way to go. We may even support or follow current leaders who work to achieve social justice in our world. But when it comes to acting locally, how many of us really show up for duty? We have also been touched by the Holy Spirit. Why are we still afraid to venture out?

Let’s reaffirm our belief in social justice and match it to a plan. Let us each commit to doing one thing every week toward achieving our personal vision of social justice. Let’s do more than think globally. Let’s act locally. We can leave the rest to God. Just like Jesus asked us to do.

Changing Landscape

(Continued from Page 1)

light at Morgan Avenue, because I enjoy seeing the Church of the Gesu in the distance and so many other church steeples providing me with guidance and inspiration as I travel. They are beautiful and sturdy landmarks for us, and encouraging symbols of our role as Roman Catholics as this new century unfolds.

Our church buildings hold up the symbol of the **cross** as a reminder of our calling and our destiny in the midst of so many changes in our lives.

Parish Leaders — Mark Your Calendars

October 12th has been chosen as the “All-Committee Night.” Please mark your calendars to attend this meeting at 7 p.m. in Adamski Hall. Prepare reports on goals and accomplishments. Meet parish leaders. Please plan to attend.

As a parish community we are called to live and proclaim the Pascal Mystery day in and day out and to be effective witnesses of the power of Christ’s death and resurrection in our lives and in our world.

Exactly how we do that in this neighborhood and at this particular moment in history is something we all need to consider.

I am humbled and honored to served as your parish administrator as we consider the challenges and opportunities of this time.

God bless you all!

Craft/Vendor Fair

Interested Craft/Vendor Fair participants are urged to stop at the Sept. 12-13 ComeUnity weekend for details and to register for this year’s expanded two-day event to be held Nov. 27-28. Watch weekly bulletin for more details.

St. Roman Endowment Fund Annual Report

Statement For Fiscal Year 7/01/2008-6/30/2009

Financial Statement

Beginning Balance 7/01/2008	\$543,474
Receipts	
Cash and Securities Contributed in fiscal year	60,917
Realized Gain/Loss in fiscal year	(32,443)
Unrealized Gain/Loss	(49,999)
Dividend and Interest Earned	<u>16,122</u>
	(5,403)
Distributions	
Grants 2008-2009	28,657
Administration Fees to Catholic Foundation	2,286
Investment Fees to Catholic Foundation	<u>2,771</u>
	33,714
Ending Balance 6/30/2009	\$504,357
Total Assets Pledged in Estates	\$800,000*
Total Available Disbursements for Fiscal Year 2009-10	\$27,464

*This number is approximate as some estates stated a specific dollar amount to be left to the Fund and others stated their intent as a percent of assets.

General Discussion

The assets in the Fund are invested through The Catholic Community Foundation. Last fiscal year the investment return was (12.6%).

The Fund was established to support and assist the St. Roman Parish Congregation by providing supplemental funding to its programs and services. The primary area of funding is expected to come from memorial giving as well as estate donations. Future donors of \$300 or more will be honored on a plaque that hangs at the parish.

It is hoped that this Endowment Fund will continue to grow through your generosity. Counting this year's distribution the Endowment Fund will have distributed \$130,686 since inception.

The Endowment Fund is proud to announce the following grants for the fiscal year of 6/30/09 to 5/31/10.

Children's Choir	\$3,500	Office Equipment (rectory)	\$1,600
Betz Center Repairs	\$4,500	Sister Lucy tuition assistance	\$8,000
Youth Workcamp	\$2,000	Lunch Program Equipment for Adamski Hall	\$1,500
		Early Childhood Program K4/K/5	\$4,000

We are thankful to all who have supported the Endowment Fund over the 10 years of its existence. Remember that any contribution of \$300 or more entitles you to a plate on our Endowment Wall of Support in the vestibule of the church. The Endowment Fund will continue to support St. Roman Parish into perpetuity.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 7 — Labor Day; parish, school offices closed

Sept. 11 — Middle School dance, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 12-13 — ComeUnity Weekend

Signup for Craft/Vendor Fair

Mission Appeal at all Masses

Sept. 16 — Teacher In-Service, noon dismissal

Sept. 26 — Festival appreciation dinner, 7 p.m.

Sept. 30 — Fall Priests' Day (off campus)

October weekends — Sacrament of Anointing
after all Masses

Oct. 3-4 — Festivals of Faith sessions

Oct. 4 — Blessing of animals

Parish office backyard

Oct. 5 — Culver's Day to benefit parish school

Oct. 8-9 — Teachers' Convention, no school

Oct. 10-11 — ComeUnity Weekend

Oct. 12 — All-Committee Night, 7 p.m.

Oct. 23 — Bizarre Holiday

Oct. 30 — Teacher In-Service, no school

Oct. 31-Nov. 1 — Festivals of Faith sessions

Nov. 4-5 — School accreditation visit

Nov. 7-8 — Memorial Weekend — all Masses
Special celebration after 11 a.m. Mass
for deceased (10/1/08 thru 9/30/09)

Nov. 13-15 — Confirmation Retreat
TYME Out Center

Nov. 15 — 2nd annual chili/salsa cook-off

Nov. 19 — Parent/teacher conferences;
noon dismissal

Nov. 20 — Conferences continue, no school

Nov. 25 — Noon dismissal; Thanksgiving holiday
Thanksgiving dinner setup, 2:30 p.m.

Nov. 26 — Thanksgiving Day, offices closed
Thanksgiving dinner, 11 a.m.

Nov. 27 — Parish/school offices closed

Nov. 28 — Food Pantry closed

Nov. 28-29 — Vendor/Craft/Bake sale

Dec. 5-6 — Festivals of Faith sessions

Dec. 8 — Mass for Immaculate Conception
8:10 a.m.; 12:10 and 6:30 p.m.

**All festival workers are invited to the annual Festival Appreciation Dinner
on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. in Adamski Hall. Please plan to attend.**

**St. Roman Parish
1710 W. Bolivar Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53221**

**Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 1637**