



# Saint Thomas More Collegiate Campus Ministry

VOLUME 2009 ISSUE 3

JUNE 2009

Summer is fast approaching [yeah!] and the school year is quickly coming to an end. Congratulations to the Religious Ed. Department/ Campus Ministry for a most productive and exciting year. Each successive year seems to see this area growing by leaps and bounds, and that's the way it should be at STMC. I am delighted to have been a part of this scene for the past three years and to have encouraged people to become "risk takers" for the Lord. But there is a time for everything. And my time has come. For the next school year I have accepted a position in the Guidance Department of Tampa Catholic High School in Tampa, Florida. My role as President of STMC has been fulfilled and it's time to move on to new challenges. Be assured of my thoughts and prayers for your continued openness to the Lord in your lives, and I'll think of you most fondly - but most specially during your snow storms. God bless you all.

**Brother Sanpietro**

## ALL TIME MISSIONS RECORD

For the School Year 2008-2009 STMC Knights have achieved an all time record!!!

This years total collected for Missions is.....\$22479.06 Congratulations to all Knights for their generous contributions. A BIG thanks to Mr. Zimmerman's 8E120 class raising \$2103.31 and Mr. Bouwman's 11B116 class not far behind with a total \$2052.33.

The monies raised during the year for Missions are given to support programs through the Christian Brothers in Portsmouth Dominica West Indies, Kenya & Tanzania in Africa, and Lima, Peru. These are schools or centers run by or supported by the Christian Brothers with a focus on education. Miss Bohemier and Miss Lang will be travelling to Kenya and Tanzania this summer and will take the funds to give to the local schools as well as working in the communities during their stay! We wish them a safe and rewarding journey.

As well as the International gifts, funds are used to support many local Outreach Services, such as Catholic Christian Outreach, Union Gospel Mission, Progressive Housing, Holy Trinity Breakfast Program, St. Barnabas Community Lunch.



## 20,000+ Hours of Christian Service

Students at St. Thomas More Collegiate are some of the busiest students around. While being involved in so many extra-curricular activities they still find time to volunteer for a minimum of thirty hours each year. In fact, some students accumulate three or four times the needed service hours. Service of others, especially the needy, is not optional for Christians. It is a mandate found in scripture and in Church teachings. We were each created out of love; thus we are called to respond to all we meet with a return of love. The STMC service program is designed to give students an opportunity to put into practice the values of Christian charity, compassion and understanding we present at STMC. This year our students have been involved in a variety of programs both in and outside of our school community. In this newsletter there will be an opportunity to read some of their experiences. We want to encourage our students to continue their service throughout the summer and still be involved in our programs which run year round. Any member of our community who would like to be involved in our morning breakfast program on Thursdays, or the Plant-A-Row Grow-A-Row program on Sundays, please contact Mr. Mattiazzo at STMC.

Please share with us any of your service or outreach stories so we can share them with our community.

# iASPIRE

Inspiration is the key to motivation; motivation is the key to success. Yet in day to day life, many of us don't take advantage of the opportunities that help us grow. We often don't realize that by denying our interest in the outside world and taking initiative, we are avoiding opportunities that lead to success.

So how does one start?

Every year Corpus Christi at UBC hosts their annual youth leadership conference. The two day event is focused on helping teens become motivated and organize their time so they are able to work towards various goals. The conference always provides a fun and open environment. Teens are able to meet with other teens to support each others' ideas and nurture ambition.

This year, the conference was held during the last weekend of May under the name iAspire Leadership Conference. The conference was organized by students from St. Thomas More, Notre Dame, Vancouver College, University Hill and Magee Secondary. Because the cabinet was made up of people that are the same age as the delegates, the conference was of value and interest to all attendees, making the experience more memorial.

If one is interested in the conference, the event takes place every year in May. Keep your eyes open for this or other leadership conferences for our STMC students.

**Caroline Czekajlo Grade 11**



## Mr. Ruzycski Challenges his Grade 10 Planning Class to help the Community that has been affected by substance abuse.

The purpose of the project was to ensure that the students became active participants in their community and focus on programs with an objective to make a difference. The students rose to the challenge by creating programs that collected clothes and toiletries for the homeless, collecting funds and baby supplies for impoverished mothers, speaking to elementary school students about the dangers of substance abuse, creating a seminar for their peers by bringing in rehabilitated street people to discuss drug addiction and filming a documentary with the help of the V.P.D. on the perils of Vancouver's' downtown east side street people. The project was an incredible success and was a celebration of the human spirit. Hundreds of lives were touched by a simple assignment which reached out to others with the hope of making a difference. Never under estimate the power of youth given a purpose. Mr. Ruzycski was overwhelmed by the response from members of the community who were moved by the many efforts of the S.T.M.C. students. Global television's Mike McCardle found out about the students' initiatives and came to the school to interview them and celebrate their accomplishments. With the standard being set by this years Planning class Mr. Ruzycski is looking forward to the enthusiasm and energy of next years grade tens and the endless possibilities of positive things for our community.

**Mr. D. Ruzycski**



## Student Service **STMC REACHES OUT TO the New Westminster Union Gospel Mission**

Have you ever wondered what we do with extra food from our lunch programs, banquets etc.?

Brother Cassidy drives down to the Union Gospel Mission and graciously donates it to their food programs.

I just wanted to pass along another great big Thank You to the girls who stopped by the Mission today. Thank you to Tiffany Tran, Stephanie Kinal, Heidi Fernandes and everyone who donated and thought about our clients here at the UGM! It may not seem like much but anytime people stop to consider the lives of our people and the day to day struggles some of our clients deal with it brings joy to my heart. Not everyone is on the streets by choice (yes there are a few who are choosing to remain there for sure). I look forward to meeting more of the students

**Andrea Sali of the Union Gospel Mission in New Westminister**



### LIGHT A CANDLE FOR HOMELESSNESS

Each student at STMC completes a minimum of thirty hours of community service each year. This gives over twenty thousand hours dedicated to the community from STMC. Students volunteer both in the STMC community and in the greater community. Students have volunteered through helping at local soup kitchens, community centre events, the Annual Chancellor Basketball tournament, altar serving, and much more.

This past year, I have been able to obtain my hours from organizing a community event. I, along with two other students from STMC, and five other students from various Catholic High schools across the lower mainland planned a Candlelight vigil and march. The purpose of the vigil and march was to raise awareness about the homelessness issue in Vancouver. We began planning the event in October and watched it come alive in late April. The preparing included finding enough candles for everyone, obtaining permits, deciding the route to walk, finding a speaker for the end of the march, and various other tasks. Through this event, I was able to meet many new people, and watch a dream become a reality. The yearly service project has taught me the importance of assisting the community in any way possible. The lessons I have learned through the various events I've volunteered at, I will forever be able to use. STMC students have been giving back to the community in many different ways and will continue to each year.



**Sarah Manifold Grade 12**



**Above**

Grade 8 students compete in a clothing drive to assist the homeless. This event was organized by STMC alumnus.

Leo Bruneau

## A GRADE 11 SERVICE PROJECT

Every year students of STMC are asked to complete a service project. I decided to give up my Saturday mornings and teach a little boy with special needs about God.

I become a part of VANSPEC when I was in grade 9 and I have continued to help out since then. I teach a little boy named Cameron who is eight years old and Suffers from Down Syndrome. When I first started at VANSPEC I was Cam's assistant teacher, although for the last two years I have been teaching him all on my own. While teaching him there is a certain curriculum I must follow

and this includes making lesson plans and filling out reviews after each class.

This year Cameron and I took on the challenge of First Communion. We had to learn all about the church, the mass and the life of Jesus. I also had to prepare him for reconciliation. Because Cameron has limited speech, it took countless hours but it was all worth it. I don't think I ever felt as much pride as I did when I watched Cam walk up to the priest and receive his First Communion.

I consider this to be community service because I gave up my time for the greater good of the community. Also, because I don't ask for anything in return. I am also giving up a week of my summer vacation to take these children to a camp at Harrison Hot Springs. This gives the parents a week of freedom and relaxation and the teachers a chance to get to know the kids better.

Although I am receiving service hours, it does not feel like work at all. I love teaching Cameron and seeing him and the other kids learn and grow.

**Carmela Luongo Gr. 11  
2009-2010 Student  
Council**

## FISH FRIDAY FOR SERVICE HOURS

Fish Friday started with Barry McMillan and J. S. McMillan Industries seven years ago. Barry had an idea, to serve fresh fish to the needy, so he called up his friend Doug Marsh, my grandfather, and together they put together Fish Friday.

For three Friday's a month, 400-600 meals are served to the homeless in the downtown East side out of the Salvation Army. These meals are made with top quality fish donated by the fishermen who caught them. Sauce, vegetables, rice, potatoes, juices and deserts are prepared and served in a sit down dining area. Fish Friday has become a huge success that has also led to Fish Friday in the park, an annual dinner event that feeds up to 3000 people.

Fish Friday is more than just handing food to someone, it's a community event and a humbling experience. This event helps to give people a needed boost, and an opportunity for volunteers to serve.

My family and I have been volunteering for seven years and it has always been a great experience. If you would like to join us next year we will be organizing a group of students to serve on one of the Friday's.

**Gemma Lazarich Grade 8**



# SUMMER SERVICE



STMC Community Joins  
**“Plant a Row Grow a Row”**  
[www.growarow.org](http://www.growarow.org)

Beginning on June 14th, STMC will be involved in a **Plant a Row - Grow a Row** program to assist the needy in our community. Plant a Row - Grow a Row builds on a long-standing tradition of people sharing their harvest with their neighbors. It's a simple but effective idea.

Gardeners plant an extra row or two and donate the produce to the Food Bank.

In troubled economic times like these, it is more important than ever that the Food Bank is able to supplement their supply of non-perishable food with fresh fruit and vegetables.

## Plant a Row Grow a Row

When: Every Sunday from 9:30am -10:30am

Where: STMC parking lot

If you would like to assist us in this program please contact Mr. D. Mattiazzo at 604-521-1801 ext 127



# STMC CAMPUS MINISTRY TRIVIA

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1. What is the feast day of St. Thomas More?            | 5. What city was Edmund Rice from?                   | the patron saint of?   | 12. Who is our school Chaplin and what Parish is he from?                  |
| 2. What classroom used to be the STMC chapel?           | 6. What is Brother Cassidy's first name?             | 10. Former STM student Gary Gordon is the bishop in what Northern Canadian city?             | <b>Answers can be found on the Campus Ministry section of our website.</b> |
| 3. How many years has Brother Bassett been at STMC?     | 7. What liturgical season are we in now?             | 11. What three priests, who happen to be alumni from STMC, are currently at IC Delta Parish? |  |
| 4. Name at least three priests that are alumni of STMC. | 8. Which Canadian city has hosted a World Youth day? |  |  |
|   | 9. What is St. Thomas More                           |  |  |

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### ***Vocation Live in Opportunity at the Seminary of Christ the King***

- ◆ Any male student interested in pursuing the religious life can spend an information weekend at the seminary of Christ the King on July 3-5, 2009. Please contact Mr. Mattiazzo for more details.

### ***STMC Opening Mass***

- ◆ Opening Mass for next school year will be on Thursday September 17th at 9:45am. Our weekly Wednesday morning masses will resume during the second week of school.



### ***ME TO WE DAY SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2009***

- ◆ St. Thomas More Collegiate will send 30 students to the Me to We Day on September 29th at GM Place. We Day is Free The Children's annual signature event that engages youth to be the change as they support the international development work of Free The Children.
- ◆ The largest event of its kind, each We Day event celebrates the power of young people to change the lives of others. Every year, the We Day events feature a series of inspirational and motivational speeches by top leadership and social issues activists, speakers and entertainers including the Dalai Lama, Jane Goodall, Jason Mraz, Mia Farrow, Kreig Kielburger and many more.

### ***An Inspiring Presentation by Jason Evert***

- ◆ STMC is proud to announce that on December 16th Jason Evert will speak to our student body on living a Chaste life. Please check out [www.chastity.com](http://www.chastity.com) for more information on Jason Evert and his ministry. Our students are very excited to welcome this speaker to our school.



### ***Social Justice Conference***

- ◆ Corpus Christie's annual "Voices of Hope Social Justice Conference will be on October 21, 2009. This conference is designed to engage young people in matters of local and international importance. The outstanding group of speakers will challenge students and encourage them to celebrate the richness of Catholic Social Teaching. Please contact Mr. Mattiazzo for more details.