

SPRING 2007

St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center

WITNESSES THE NEWS



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Spring Break

Over Spring Break, six UNI students from St. Stephen the Witness and Fr. Ken Glaser spent the week doing service work at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Worker House in Waterloo.

Matt Bries, Eric Faurote, Megan Kass, Abby Larkin, Rolando Morales, and Travis Peters began by gutting and remodeling the bathroom. We went on to clean food pantries and organize the donations. Students also checked people in as they arrived.

On Tuesday, we scraped and painted window frames on the exterior of the women's house. Mary, Ellen, and Sarah Wallingford volunteered their time to help the UNI students throughout the week.

Abby and Megan planned activities for a three-year-old boy who, with his mother, often attends activities at the Catholic Worker House. When asked about her experience, Abby said, "It was great to work with the little boy and to hear the stories of the guests. I gained a whole new perspective this week that I will carry with me."

Wednesday through Friday, students cleaned the interior of both the men's and women's houses and finished organizing

donations. On Friday, Eric Faurote, Don Meads, and Max Ortner finished remodeling the bathroom in the women's house.

Community meals, including meals donated by members of St. Stephen the Witness, were held on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. On Wednesday evening, Fr. Ken celebrated Eucharist in the Catholic Worker House living room.

Donations to Catholic Worker House and other charities were collected throughout Lent and were distributed after Easter.

Social justice peer minister, Rolando Morales, with the guidance of Fr. Ken, headed the Catholic Worker House effort. When asked about his motivation, he stated, "We are well aware that there is poverty around the world, but we often forget to recognize it in our communities. This was a wonderful chance for students to experience a life of poverty right here in the Cedar Valley." The students would like to thank the community of St. Stephen for their prayers and generous

donations, and to thank the Catholic Worker House volunteers for allowing them to stay there during the week.

~Rolando Morales,
Peer Minister



Blood Drive



For nearly 25 years, members of St. Stephen the Witness have been willing to brave needles for a great cause. Each semester, the Catholic Student Center holds a blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross. This opportunity allows both students and adults to unite as a faith community and give the gift of life.

Students and faith

community members of St. Stephen the Witness exceeded expectations this past semester. Fifty-two units of blood were collected, which far surpassed the drive's goal of 35 units. The blood products, which have the capacity to save over one hundred lives, were donated to the Red Cross which then distributes them to local hospitals. To date, St. Stephen has collected a total of

997 units of blood. With continued student involvement and community support, we hope to continue to exceed our goals and expand our effort to help those in medical need!

The fall drive will be held in late October--keep an eye on the bulletin for blood drive announcements!

~Dan Pelzer, Blood Drive Coordinator

Director's Corner

NO MATTER WHERE YOU'RE FROM..
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Some students came from Dubuque Iowa. Others from Carrol, Des Moines, Burlington or many other small Iowa towns in between! Some students traveled from Illinois, others from Texas and others from Missouri. Some journeyed from Africa, Peru, Argentina, and others from Mexico. Nearly 1000 students registered at St. Stephen the Witness this year and experienced our Christian community in a variety of ways. Christian Service is a core value at the student center and helping others comes naturally. Students served St. Stephen and the larger community in a

variety of ways this year. Students served during worship—as liturgical ministers. Other students served at the local nursing home—bringing good cheer to those who often have no visitors. Some other students served at the Catholic Worker House; creating home cooked meals to die for! Still others served answering the phone, providing spiritual experiences for high school students or gathering together to share and learn about our Christian faith! As we look back on this academic year we were truly blessed by the "Witness" of faith by so many students. Let all of us continue to WITNESS our faith sharing our values of Jesus with

others as we bring the kingdom of God to earth now and always!

~Mary Lou Specha, PBVM
Director of Campus Ministry



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a historical process of study, prayer, service and instruction. For many participants, the process leads to conversion.

In September of 2006, seventeen people inquired about the Roman Catholic faith. With sponsors and team members, they gathered on Sunday evenings to discuss a variety of topics related to the Catholic faith. As the group progressed, the questions intensified. Various rituals were celebrated in the context of Sunday liturgies, and the process culminated at the Easter Vigil. Not all who began the inquiry period found themselves called to full initiation. This gift we call faith is not something to take for granted, nor is it something we simply have. It is an experience of God's presence that must be lived each day.

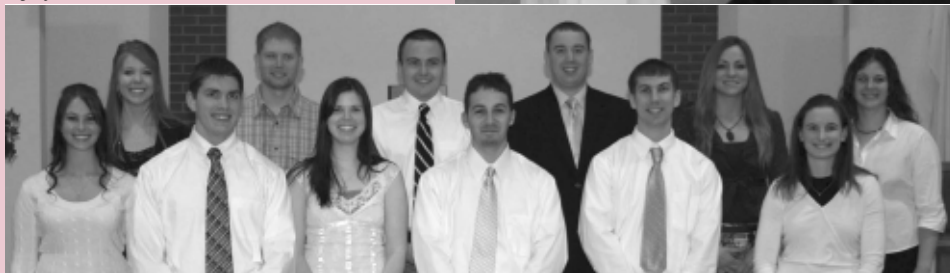
At the Easter Vigil, it was a great joy for our faith community to welcome Stacey Newlon, Johnny Lukehart, Peter Thomsen and Josh Whitney into the Catholic Community through the waters of baptism. Katie Jackson, Jared Jones, Sarah Littlechild, Spencer Mathews and

Nathan Purdy publicly made their profession of faith and were confirmed in the Catholic Faith. Heather McLaury, Carly Nelson and Jennifer Wahl completed their sacraments of initiation by being confirmed as well.

In September, the candidates were informed that the RCIA process would only be the beginning of their conversion experience. In our summary meeting it was interesting to hear candidates articulate their experiences, now realizing that faith is a lifelong process and it must be nurtured each day. Also, the RCIA process, not simply for the candidates, strengthens the entire community to experience and grow in our own faith journeys.

If you or someone you know is searching to grow in the Catholic faith, you are welcome to join us. We will gather for the first time on Sunday, September 9, to again start the process for all interested.

~Fr. Ken Glaser,
Chaplain



Now We Are Reborn To Grace

The rigors of Lent and Holy Week observances have melted with the last stubborn snowstorm, and we are left with joy, rebirth, and fifty celebratory Easter days. "Alleluia," we sing. "Alleluia," the Scripture, prayer, music, and environment echo. And "Alleluia," too, respond our spirits, our hearts, our minds.

On Ash Wednesday, people from all over the Cedar Falls/Waterloo/University of Northern Iowa area attended one of the three differently-composed liturgies. Lent had begun in the dust of ashes on our foreheads, and we sang, "Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord," asking

God's mercy. Week by week, we reflected on the mystery that, for us to live, Jesus was called to die.

We prayed often and publicly with the dozen people traversing the final stages of preparation for full participation in the church, of which St Stephen is the local community. At Easter Vigil, we welcomed them through fire, water, oil, bread, wine, and comradeship.

We waved palm branches... remembered the institution of the Eucharist and our call to serve one another and the world... resonated to the impact of hammer on nail... watched

while our beautiful chapel was stripped of decoration... thoroughly cleaned and redecorated it for this Resurrection season.

In the Orthodox church, there is an Easter custom. Believers greet one another on Easter morning with a hard-boiled egg. The receiver bonks the egg on his or her head, saying, "Christ is risen," and the gift-giver answers, "He is risen indeed!"

Amen. Alleluia!

~Dr. Lani Johnson, Director, Liturgy & Music 2006-2007

St. Stephen the Witness
Catholic Student Center
1019 W. 23rd Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-3550
www.ststephenuni.org

*We are a Catholic faith community.
Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel and build up God's Kingdom.*

Upcoming Events

July 25: RAGBRAI ARRIVES IN CEDAR FALLS

August 20: UNI FALL SEMESTER BEGINS

September 28-29: PREMARRIAGE RETREAT

October 13: UNI HOMECOMING

October 27: UNI FAMILY WEEKEND

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER EVENTS, PLEASE CALL (319) 266-9863

Help us **WITNESS** the News in Your Life

We would like to know the good news happening in your life! Send your updates to kmcc@ststephenuni.org or to 1019 W 23rd Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

Cover Photos

Top right: Matt Bries, Eric Faurote, Megan Kass and Abby Larkin participate in Eucharist at the Catholic Worker House.
Lower Left: Fr. Ken baptizes Stacey Newlon during Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 7.

Be a Witness. Support St. Stephen!

Please help us to continue our ministry to the students of the University of Northern Iowa. Gifts can be made via our website at www.ststephenuni.org or by contacting Kelly at (319) 266-9863.

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SUMMER LITURGY SCHEDULE
Sundays 10:30 AM
Wednesdays 5:30 PM

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Witness the News is a publication of St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center.