

SAG SITE COMMITTEE
QUARTERLY REPORT to the PSC

JANUARY 2009 – APRIL 2009



SAG Site Committee Mission: To create an effective and loving spiritual community through masses, religious education, spiritual groups, and social activities. This community will function within the larger community of St. Thomas Aquinas parish under the guidance of the parish, clergy and staff.

The SAG Site Committee coordinates issues related to liturgies, works closely with the Liturgy Board and Liturgy Coordinator. We recruit, train, and organize lay ministers, commentators, Eucharistic ministers, ushers.

Site Committee Chair *Susan Adams*

PSC Rep *Kathleen Hart*

Liturgy Committee Rep. *Pat Briggs*
Gargiulo

Communicator / Secretary *Linda*

RECENT EVENTS at Saint Albert the Great Church

We are pleased and excited that the Font is installed and running. So far, it has received a most warm and welcoming reception from the community!



Palm Sunday



Easter Vigil

APRIL 2009

April 11 We celebrated the Easter Vigil. We gathered outside around the New Fire for the blessing of the fire and the preparation and lighting of the Easter Candle. Everyone processed into the dark church holding a lit candle. The candlelight and the water reflection cast on the wall from the lit font created a beautiful interior. We were all excited by the font, and people crowded around to witness the five candidates receive the sacrament of full immersion baptism. Some people were standing on the pews to get a good view. Then everyone was invited to come to the font to renew his / her Baptism. A reception followed the mass in the Hospitality Center.

April 10 Father George led the Stations of the Cross

April 5 On Palm Sunday we gathered outside and then processed into the church with our palms.

MARCH 2009

On March 1 The five adult Catechumens celebrated the Rite of Sending. The elect celebrated the three Rites of Scrutiny during the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent.

March 14 The St. Patrick's Day parish party was held at the St. Elizabeth Seton School auditorium.

March 20 A Parish Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation was held at SAG.



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

FEBRUARY 2009

February 7 The annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner took place at the Saint Elizabeth Seton School auditorium.

JANUARY 2009

January 23 Our second grade class received their First Reconciliation.

ONGOING EVENT

Adult Catechism- Hal Fletcher and Jeffrey Sid organize an adult catechism at SAG, usually held the first and third Sundays of the month (this month's schedule is somewhat askew due to Easter and First Communion). Hal Fletcher is the facilitator / teacher. Attached at the end of this report is an example of one of their emails which outlines some topics for thought and discussion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 19 44 SAG second graders receive First Communion April 19th at **10 AM**. The teachers and kids have been working so hard to prepare for this event. They had a day long retreat April 4th at the Dermody Center. During the retreat, they wrote intentions, assigned "jobs" for the mass, and received reconciliation. Florence de Bretagne designed an altar cloth that includes a fabric hand-print of each child, and several parents helped sew the hands to the cloth last week. They rehearse this Friday evening at 6:30 PM. After the mass on Sunday, there will be a dessert reception at the St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium. The dedicated teachers are Florence de Bratagne, Lora Christen, Kate Fotsch, Tara Feldmeier, Tim O'Konski, Anne Kastner, and Joseph Harwood.

APRIL 26 Altar Servers commissioned on April 26

SITE COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS / CONCERNS

1. In an effort to procure more lectors, Ems, etc., we decided to ask some of our lay ministers to write "testimonials" about why they do what they do. Virginia Pirrotta even read hers aloud to the congregation. Three testimonials were printed and distributed in the bulletin. Pat Keicher reported that these efforts gathered No One.
2. Katherine Glazier retired as our Art and Environment committee "leader." Katherine provided SAG with some amazingly beautiful floral arrangements for several years. She will do the flowers for Confirmation. Donna Pellazari now leads a small group of us to maintain the environment. Donna, with the help of Linda Gargiulo, envisioned and designed all the beautiful arrangements and candle rings for our Easter environment.
3. Susan Adams is retiring as our Site Committee chair. Pat Briggs will take over for her at our meetings, but Susan will assist her with agenda items, emailing, etc. We're hoping another member of our committee will be able to help Pat with her role as Liturgy representative.

BIG, BIG UPCOMING EVENT

Saint Albert the Great 50th Anniversary 1961-2011 We are beginning to discuss this milestone. Rumor has it that Rachel Alvalais offered to chair / organize a committee for this event. Some ideas for celebration are a party, mass with the Bishop, a booklet of old photos. It was also mentioned that we should somehow involve / alert the city founders of the event. Pat is going to call the Diocese to find out the date of the first mass celebrated at SAG.

Really Christ, or Not Really?

From: **Hal Fletcher** (hal.fletcher@gmail.com)

Sent: Thu 4/02/09 7:10 PM

To:

Cc: HAL12@earthlink.net; susanc.dre@sbcglobal.net; pastor@paloaltocatholic.org; 'Jeffrey Sid' (JeffSid@comcast.net)

When the Israelites were slaves, by what were they saved? What were the particulars?

This question is important to consider if we are to fully grasp what we have at Mass. For example: Do we have there the Body and Blood of Our Lord? Is it really Christ? ... Is it important to know?

A Gallup poll conducted in 1992 found that 70 percent of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence, that Christ himself *_is_* the Eucharist – Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity - and not just a symbol.

What do you believe?

I invite you to join us on Sunday to discuss this important question. We all travel the same road together towards heaven, one that can often be rough. Is Jesus with us, or not?

Come, find Our Lord anew as we answer these and other questions. Class will be this Sunday, April 5, at 10:15 in the Church of St. Albert the Great.

All are welcome.

In Christ,

Hal Fletcher