

The Pastor's Page

Kid's Sports, Narcissism, and Family and Cultural Ruin

The other day I spoke about “Kid’s Sports” and the destruction it often brings to the parents and the family, and apparently many of you agreed. Books and articles began to be sent to me affirming the diagnosis. One recent book takes on the subject headlong: “The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement,” by Jean M. Twenge and W. Keith Campbell. An article in Forbes Magazine raises a similar question, “Are Parents Killing Their Kids’ Careers?” At core, misplaced attention on our kids is destroying our kids, our families, our marriages, and workforce and our culture, and the answer, like the other problems of the entitlement culture, is not further down the road.

For parents it’s hard not to give your kids all the attention and all the opportunities possible. Whether it’s sports or music or dance, all their friends are doing it, you don’t want them to be left out, and you certainly don’t want to be a “Bad Mom.” So you do it. You seldom eat meals as a family, you drive incessantly to one thing or another, even Sunday Mass gets in the way. Are there secret hopes that my kid might get to the big time?

One dad works 50-60 hours a week, goes to all his kids practices and games, from Soccer to Baseball to Football. He is worn out. He is dying. He has lost all his male friends. They rarely eat together as a family. And it’s just beginning: the boys aren’t to middle school yet.

A lady I know wanted her kids to not be deprived of opportunity to play hockey and she became the wild hockey mom. She drove to every practice day or night, every game near and far, bought every piece of equipment money can buy. Her boys went from Mini - Mites to Mites and from Squirts to Pee-Wees, from skating on their ankles to real skills. She became the most vocal of hockey mom’s ranting at the referees and talking up the games. But when the boys got to high school they finally got their mom’s attention they told her: “We don’t want to play hockey anymore!” In the end, they weren’t playing for themselves but for their mom. They developed no heart, no internal motivation for the game. There was no fire in the belly – only the

external motivation of making mom happy with a prearranged set of friends and completely full schedule.

Do you remember the movie *Sandlot*? The kids played baseball everyday without their parents. They set the rules, they picked the teams, they resolved the conflicts and refereed their own games. They found out where they fit into the group: one was the super athlete, another the geek, still another the pudgy kid, and they found acceptance and self acceptance in the group. Today psychologists say that kids are not learning how to make friends because all their friends are ready made in teams the adults created. They never find out who they are in the pecking order of life because someone is protecting them from disappointment. They are not developing fire in the belly and great souls because they never had to develop the internal motivation to succeed.

I’m reminded of the story of the butterfly emerging from the cocoon. The temptation is to try to help the butterfly and open the cocoon for it. But without the struggle the butterfly never develops his wings. With outside help it emerges from the cocoon and promptly dies.

But even this story doesn’t express the harm done to children who are made into gods! When they have been taught that the world revolves around them they become narcissistic. Self centered. They don’t develop an other-centered attitude. Service to others makes no sense to a narcissist: “after all, it’s all about me!” Pity the marriage partner they find and any kids they might have. Pity the employer. The Common Good, so basic a concept in society and so necessary for a nation, makes no sense to them. Grab for all you can!

Let’s try to re-calibrate our lives: first comes God, and second the marriage is our way to God! Then come the kids, and it’s our goal to prepare them and welcome them into our adult lives! They should be wanting to join the adults in work and play, not the adults wanting to join them! One dad put it best: “My kids can participate in any sport they want so long as they are home by dinner.” The home is not merely the stop over spot for sleeping and recreation. Home is where kids find good order, acceptance and love around mom and dad at the table.

Fr. Thomas Dufner

HFC Wednesday Night Religious Education Classes

We look forward to welcoming the students of Holy Family for another grace filled year beginning Wednesday, September 28th from 6:30pm-8pm, for grades 1 through 8.

Our evening begins with large group Gathering Time where we anchor ourselves in prayer with a meditative decade of the Rosary followed by a short talk from Mrs. Prather in elementary grades or Mr. Brandel in junior high. This helps prepare us to go into class open to what Our Lord wants us to learn during class time from 7-8pm. Once a month we have Eucharistic Adoration Gathering Time. This is when we cross over to Church, come into the sanctuary and kneel before Jesus, truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, to love and adore Him!

Our HFC Wednesday year also includes Advent and Lent Confession Nights, Ash Wednesday Mass, Lent Stations of the Cross with Benediction and our Ice Cream Social.

We are blessed to have the finest group of catechists, including an opportunity for the junior high 7th and 8th grade students to be taught by two seminarians.

The complete list of our curriculum, schedule for the year and registration forms can be found on our website: hfcmn.org or look for the envelopes on all Church bulletin boards with registrations and schedule.

Questions? Call or email Mrs. Jean Prather, Director of Elementary Religious Education at 952.929.0113 x 12 or jean@hfcmn.org



REGISTER FOR CONFIRMATION PREP 2011-12

High school age youth: Are you ready to deepen your relationship with Christ and take on the mission of the Church? The Sacrament of Confirmation gives us the graces to do just that! Confirmation preparation at Holy Family is a one-year program of preparation with Confirmation taking place in the Spring. Classes take place on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm beginning September 28. There will be a mandatory Parent (only) Meeting on Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00pm in Moorman Hall. Visit our website for more information at www.hfcmn.org/youth-religious-education/confirmation-preparation or call 952.929.0113 x 19 with any questions (or email browns@usfamily.net).

**You are invited to join us for a
time of prayer, study and
friendship...**

**And this year we will be
learning from the 33rd Doctor
of the Church!**



Holy Family's Carmelite Group meets once a month, the 2nd Monday of the month, from October through May beginning at 6:30pm downstairs in Moorman Hall.

Our time together consists of:

- ✓ Chanting *Evening Prayer* (the Psalms)
- ✓ Father Dufner leading us in our study time
- ✓ Quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament (mental prayer)
- ✓ Chanting *Night Prayer*
- ✓ Social Time

Since we are not an official secular Carmelite community, you are free to join us and experience Carmelite spirituality as your vocation and schedule allows. This year we will be studying an excellent (and very understandable) book by Father Vernon Johnson entitled: "*Spiritual Childhood - The Spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux*" Read with an open heart, this book will help you grow in holiness if you follow "the Little Way" of St. Therese as presented by Father Johnson. It is published by Ignatius Press, retails for \$13.95, and can be ordered online. A limited number of copies will be available for sale at our first Carmelite meeting on October 10th. Questions? Jean Prather at 952-929-0113 x12.

✂ Weekly Calendar of Events ✂

Sunday, September 4 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Food Drive Sunday

8:00 am Confessions
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

Monday, September 5 - Labor Day

Parish Office Closed

9:00 am Mass
 3:00 pm Widower and Widowers Holy Hour (Chapel)

Tuesday, September 6

8:00 am Mass
 8:30 am Grandparents Prayer Group (Gathering Place)
 10:00 am Goodtimers 500 Club (Gathering Place)
 7:30 pm Knights of Columbus (Gathering Place)

Wednesday, September 7 - HFA DQ Night! (Excelsior Blvd)

8:00 am Mass
 8:30 am Coffee & Rolls (Moorman Hall)
 11:45 am Exercise Class (Moorman Hall)

Thursday, September 8

8:00 am Mass
 6:30 pm HFHE (Moorman Hall)
 7:00 pm Choir

Friday, September 9

8:00 am Mass
 8:30 am Exercise Class (Gathering Place)
 8:00 pm Youth Adoration

Saturday, September 10

6:30 am Holy Name Society (Gathering Place)
 10:00 am Rosaries for Life (Robbinsdale)
 2:30 pm Baptism Class (Gathering Place)
 3:30 pm Confessions
 5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 11 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pancake Breakfast

8:00 am Confessions
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Love, Naturally: The Billings Ovulation Method is a scientific, reliable method that celebrates your marriage, sexuality, and fertility. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered on **September 15th and 29th (or by appointment)** here at Holy Family. To register, or to get more information, call Lorena at 612.396.4019.

This Wednesday is HFA Dairy Queen Night!!

10% of all sales at the St. Louis Park DQ on Excelsior Blvd between 4:00 and 8:00PM this Wednesday will be given to Holy Family Academy so stop in and enjoy dinner or a special treat!

Do you know some grown or growing kids? **Holy Family Home Educators** will hold the annual **Children's Clothing Swap on Sunday, Oct. 2**. You'll be able to swap your gently-used kids' clothes, maternity and nursing items for something "new" to you. Leftovers go to charity. Save the date, start cleaning out those closets, and watch the bulletin for details.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will hold its monthly meeting on Tues., Sept. 6 in The Gathering Place at 7:30PM. All members are encouraged to attend. Rosary for Our Lady will be said in the church at 7:10. All are welcome to join us in prayer.

ATTENTION: ALL METHODIST HOSPITAL EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the **Tuesday, September 13th 10:00AM meeting at Methodist Hospital in conference room 4.**

This important meeting will cover the **new text** which will be introduced in all parishes on November 27, 2011. If you have questions, call Sharon @ 952.929.0113 x 13.

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge - All boys and girls ages 10-14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the **2011 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge**. The competition will be held Sat., Sept. 17th from 9AM to Noon at Louisiana Oaks Soccer Complex. There is no cost to participate and kids can register that day. Please contact Tom Horinek if you have questions, 763.432.5972.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Col 1:24 - 2:3; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]
Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49
Sunday: Sir 27:30 - 28:9; Ps 103; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Thursday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday: St. Peter Claver
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

A simple and convenient way to give...

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. Holy Family relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. To give electronically, visit www.hfcmn.org and click on Online Giving in the Upper Right corner. If you would like to give electronically but do not have a computer available to sign up please contact Bobbi Hanson at 952.929.0113 ext.11 and she can get you set up. Thank you!

Holy Family Weekly Offering August 27/28

Regular Envelopes	\$15,333.03
Plate	\$ 1,628.77
Online Giving	\$ 958.25
Africa Relief Fund	\$ 4,079.11

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us to use the information from your check to make a one-time electronic funds transfer from your account.

Thank you for generosity!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sept	5	Rosella Gozola †
Sept	6	Father James Stromberg
Sept	7	Dick & Sylvia Custer †
Sept	8	Father Richard Hogan †
Sept	9	Mary Kathleen Custer †
Sept	10	Lucille Klobe †
Sept	11	Father Raymond Moorman † (9AM)
Sept	11	For the Parish (11AM)



We have a wonderful opportunity for those who were unable to attend the Parish Festival to be able to attend one of our 2011 Group Events. Please read below for these exciting events:

✦ Two separate dates, Saturday, September 24th and Sunday, October 9th, pheasant hunting with Fr. Dufner at Traxler's Hunting Preserve in Le Center, MN. (www.traxlers.com/) 10 spots for each date at \$200 ea, includes hunt and dinner.

✦ "Twins Tour of Target Field" Friday, September 23rd, 2011 at 4:00PM - Join Bob Spinharney on a walk down memory lane at Target Field. Learn the background of the Park and how the Twins employed history and tradition to build what many consider the finest baseball park in the Major Leagues. How about learning more about some of the Twin's greats...Kirby Puckett, Harmon Killebrew, Rod Carew and many others? What's the story behind the large sign of Minneapolis and St Paul in deep center field? This 90 minute tour will take you to the great clubs within the ballpark as well as the Budweiser deck and visiting team's locker room and dugout. 25 spots @ \$50/ea Sponsored by: Bob Spinharney

If you would like to attend one or both of these wonderful events please contact Kathy Vansickle at: 952.929.0113 x 16 or email at kathy@hfcmn.org. First come first served. **Thank you for supporting Holy Family and this years 2011 Parish Festival!**

Kids Praise Too!

Calling all of our young Cherubim (grades 2 - 8) to our parish "Kids Praise Too!" group. This Holy Family children's choir has been filling our church with wonderful music for the last eighteen years! Regular attendance required at rehearsals (Wednesdays 5:15 - 6:15PM in the choir loft) and at our Masses (usually the 2nd Sunday of each month ...the 9:00 Mass with a mandatory rehearsal beginning at 8:15).

Highlights of our year include singing for the Christmas Eve Family Mass and joining the adult choir on Palm Sunday (procession) and Easter Sunday. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 7. **We would love to have you join us!** Any questions - feel free to call Mary Beth at 952 933.0613.

2011 Memorial Mass of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

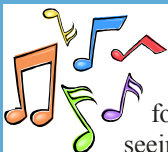
Please join us as we come together to publicly thank our law enforcement, fire and emergency personnel for their service to our community on Sunday, September 11th at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

A Civic Commemoration Service will take place at 4:30PM for all civic service personnel and their families commemorating those who have lost their lives in the line of duty followed by a Memorial Mass of Thanksgiving and Remembrance at 5:00PM at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, 239 Selby Ave. All are welcome, a short reception will follow. Overflow parking will be available at St. Paul Technical College.

On this tenth anniversary of the September 11th tragedy, let us recognize and show our appreciation for all civic servants who look after our safety.

Sponsored by the Galtier Society, an association of Catholic professionals in the Twin Cities, and the Archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family & Life.

Champions for Life Awards Luncheon - Please join us for the 4th Annual Champions for Life Awards Luncheon on Thurs., Oct. 6th to honor this year's Archdiocesan champions who "love, respect and promote life." (Gospel of Life #52). Archbishop Nienstedt will present these special awards. The luncheon will be from 11:30AM - 1:30PM at The Heritage Room, St. Peter's, Mendota. \$30 per person or \$240 for a table of 8. Your attendance will give a great witness to life and will further support these champions in our midst! Please RVSP to Sharon at 651.291.4506 by September 26th!



ALL CHOIR MEMBERS NOTE THIS...

It's time to **LET THE MUSIC BEGIN!** The first choir rehearsal is set for **Thurs., September 8th at 7:00PM in the choir loft.** I look forward to seeing all of you again as we begin another season of singing for the Honor and Glory of God! If you have questions, call Sharon at 952.929.0113 Ext. 13, otherwise I'll see you on **September 8th.** Sharon



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FALL FESTIVAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Everyone is invited to a Pancake Breakfast including pancakes, sausage and eggs, hosted for our parish Fall Festival, courtesy the Knights of Columbus on September 11th in Moorman Hall immediately following the 9AM and 11AM Masses. Free will offering accepted.



FLU SHOT CLINIC

The Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency (MVNA) will be coming to Holy Family in October to administer flu shots. Watch the bulletin for more information.



Pro-Life Corner

Here is the second part of excerpts from the "Declaration on Procured Abortion" issued by the Vatican in 1974: Paragraph 14 began with the statement that 'by denying abortion one would endanger sometimes important values which may even seem to have priority'. The text continues: *"It may be a serious question of health, sometimes of life or death, for the mother; it may be the burden represented by an additional child, especially if there are good reasons to fear that the child will be abnormal; it may be loss of social standing, and so forth. We proclaim only that none of these reasons can ever objectively confer the right to dispose of another's life, even when that life is only beginning. With regard to the future unhappiness of the child, no one, not even the father or mother, can act as its substitute- even if it is still in the embryonic stage- to choose in the child's name, life or death. The child itself, when grown up, will never have the right to choose suicide; no more may his parents choose death for the child while it is not of an age to decide for itself. Life is too fundamental a value to be weighed against even very serious disadvantages."*

NOTE: The first Respect Life Committee meeting will be held Sept. 12@ 7PM, in the Nursery. We will be discussing the activities for the year. New members are always welcome!