

Jesus revealed God's love by his life, death, resurrection and ascension.



Christ entrusted the Church with the task of caring for the sick and being with those who are suffering, so that everyone might know the healing touch of God.

Who is called to share in the mission of caring for the sick in our parish community??

On Feb. 22, 2009, we recognize and commission those who have answered this call:

Brenda Atchison
Anne Chase
Pat Dergo
Catherine Gordon
Grace Lekivetz
Roseann Schafer
Vel Van Buekenhout
Marmy Wagner
Paulette Wendler

The people of our parish who are elderly, incapacitated and ill may be separated from the mainstream of life. Their world begins to grow smaller as their contact with the outside world becomes limited.

As a parish, it is important for us to keep the link open to those who are immobile. Even though illness and incapacity may seem negative, these people remind us of our own human frailty, that we have our own limitations -- whether spiritual, physical or psychological.

It is an ongoing reminder that our sufferings are to be connected with the sufferings of Christ.



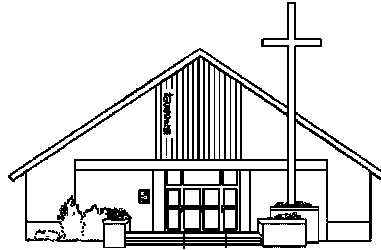
In taking the Eucharist

to others, we also take ourselves. Even though the time to visit may

seem short, it is part of the Eucharist – they are still part of our community. Those who take the Body of Christ also take the fellowship we enjoy together at mass each weekend.

Some members of St. Cecilia who take communion to shut-in parishioners have been doing so for many years. Some of them began over 30 years ago when Father Ken Koep started this ministry here.

Here are some things members say about the Pastoral Care ministry:



"I have so many pleasant memories over the years of how eagerly they looked forward to our arrival, and how appreciative they were to receive the Eucharist."

"I remember one man who was always so excited when we arrived at his home. He used to exclaim: 'Here's Jesus!!'"

"One lady from our parish attended Mass faithfully until a recent illness confined her to home. We visited a little, did a reading, prayed, gave her communion and blessed her. When we were getting ready to go, she thanked us profusely and marveled at how she felt as though she had just been at Mass."

"There have been some occasions when we found out later that someone we gave communion to passed away not long after. We were so thankful to have been able to give them *viaticum* or bread for the journey. It occurred to us later that they may have been waiting especially for it."

You can help:

Pray for those in our parish who are ill, suffering, confined to home or hospital, dying.

Be thankful for your own health.

Pray for those dedicated to taking Holy Communion from Sunday Mass to the shut-ins of our parish community – that God would guide them in this labour and reward their service.

Pray for Father Weckend as he administers the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

Prayerfully consider your own role in this ministry. Perhaps you are also called to share in the mission of caring for the sick in our parish community.

- Are you willing to visit the sick and bring God's love to them on behalf of your parish?
- Are you willing to be a loving, caring presence to the sick who suffer in mind and in body, bringing God's healing touch through your love and compassion?
- Are you willing to share the Word of God and the Eucharist with the sick when you visit them?

Contact Father Weckend or Pat Dergo at 949-4633 if you would like more information.