

## St. Gertrude Chicago

1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660

773.764.3621

[stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org)

[www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)

Sunday, November 14, 2021

*Celebrating the  
Feast of St. Gertrude*

### From Father Rich

#### Parish Feast Day Weekend

This weekend, we are celebrating our Parish Feast Day. The feast day of St. Gertrude is

November 16th and each year we celebrate this feast on the weekend closest to her feast day. As part of the celebration we are offering the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at all the Masses. Some of the events we usually have on this special weekend are not happening again this year because of the pandemic. (We hope they can return next year!)

In one of her mystical experiences, Gertrude found herself leaning against the Lord and could hear his heart beating. This was before the development of the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was profoundly moved, understanding his love not only for her, but for all humankind. As we honor her this weekend, let us all be aware of the Lord's love for us, of his heart beating for each of us, and let us, in turn, care for each other.

#### 2021 CCHD Collection - November 20-21

The annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection will take place next weekend, November 20-21. For 50 years, CCHD has been working in partnership with community organizations to address the root causes of poverty in the United States.

CCHD promotes organizations that help people help themselves. Their mission to break the cycle of poverty is now more important than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the disparities in resources experienced by the poor and vulnerable. CCHD organizations are responding promptly in this time of extraordinary need.

CCHD grantees create jobs, improve neighborhoods, keep schools safe and enriching for children, and raise leaders of the future right here in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

We are so thankful for your support. Click here for more information and to donate: <https://bit.ly/CCHD2021>. We are most fortunate that our own parishioner, Ed Jacob, will be presenting the needs of CCHD at Masses next weekend.

## Fr. Rich *(continued)*

### Mark Your Calendars! - *St. Gertrude's Thanksgiving Day Mass*

Our parish Thanksgiving celebration will be at the 10:00 am Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25. As part of our Thanksgiving celebration, the recipients of the Parish Service Awards will be recognized.

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## You're Invited to the Annual ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Next Sunday, November 21

The Edgewater Community Religious Association (ECRA) is an interfaith association of religious organizations who work toward fostering friendships and understanding of other faiths, nurture a thriving and just neighborhood, and create solutions to local problems.

ECRA hosts an annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service benefiting Care for Real that bring together Catholics, Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, as well as our friends from the Jewish, Muslim, and Hindi faith.

All are invited to attend this service on Sunday, November 21 at 3:00 pm, hosted this year at the Atonement Episcopal Church, 5749 N. Kenmore. Those who attend in person are encouraged to be vaccinated and must wear a face mask. The event will also be live-streamed on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/OAEoF0HjbRI>.

Attendees are encouraged to share their bounty with the food insecure in our neighborhood and bring fresh produce to donate to Care for Real. A reception will follow the service.



**ECRA Interfaith  
Thanksgiving Service**  
**Sunday, November 21**  
**3:00 pm**  
**The Church of the Atonement**  
**5749 N. Kenmore Ave.**

*The service will  
be live-streamed  
on YouTube.*



## Biography of our Patroness, St. Gertrude

St. Gertrude the Great, or St. Gertrude of Helfta, was born on January 6, 1256 in Germany. She eventually chose to follow the Lord by pursuing a vocation as a Benedictine Nun. Her deep relationship with the Lord in prayer led to her being hailed as a mystic. She was also regarded as a great theologian.

Although little is known about Gertrude's childhood, it is widely accepted that at just four-years-old, she was enrolled in the Cistercian monastery school of Helfta in Saxony, under the governance of Abbess Gertrude of Hackerborn.

The Cistercian movement was an effort to bring the Benedictine religious community back to a stricter and more faithful adherence to the original "Rule" or way of life encouraged by St Benedict. Some sources speculate that Gertrude's parents offered their child as an oblate, a lay person especially dedicated to God or to God's service, while others believe she may have

entered the monastery school as an orphan.

St. Mechtilde, the younger sister of the Abbess Gertrude, took care of young Gertrude. Gertrude and Mechtilde had a strong bond that only grew deeper with time, allowing Mechtilde to have a great influence over Gertrude.

Gertrude, known for being charming and able to win people over, entered the Benedictine Order at Helfta and became a nun. She devoted herself to her studies, and received an education in many different subjects. Gertrude was both fluent in Latin and very familiar with scripture and works from the Fathers of the Church, including Augustine.

In 1281, 25-year-old Gertrude experienced her first series of visions that would continue until the day she passed away. Her visions altered her life and she saw this moment as her new birth. Her priorities turned away from secular teachings and focuses more on studying Scripture and theology. Her life became full with this awakening and she was an enthusiastic student, writing for the spiritual benefit of others.

Gertrude once had a vision on the feast of John the Evangelist, described in Gertrude's writings. As she rested her head near Jesus' wound on his side, she could hear the beating of his heart. She asked St. John if he, too, felt the beating of Jesus' Divine Heart on the night of the Last Supper. He told her he was saving this revelation for a time when the world needed it to rekindle its love.

She went on to become one of the great mystics of the 13th century. Along with St. Mechtilde, she practiced what is known as "nuptial mysticism," seeing herself as the bride of Christ. She embraced charity for both rich and poor, she was a simple woman with a deep solidarity with those not yet ready for the beatific vision, who are still being purified in the state of repose known as purgatory.

## St. Gertrude (cont.)

Gertrude assisted at the deathbeds and mourned for the loss of both Abbess Gertrude of Hackeborn in 1291 and her dearly loved St. Mechtilde in 1298. Gertrude's health began to deteriorate, but she continued to only show her love for the Lord.

"Until the age of 25, I was a blind and insane woman... but you, Jesus, deigned to grant me the priceless familiarity of your friendship by opening to me in every way that most noble casket of your divinity, which is your divine Heart, and offering me in great abundance all your treasures contained in it". On November 17, 1301, Gertrude passed away a virgin and joined her Bridegroom forever.

Throughout her life, Gertrude produced numerous writings, although only a few still exist today. One of her longest surviving works is *Legatus Memorialis Abundantiae Divinae Pietatis* (*The Herald of Divine Love*). Her other standing works include her collection of *Spiritual Exercises and Preces Gertrudianae* (*Gertrudian Prayers*). *The Herald of Divine Love* is composed of five different books. Book two is the core of the work, and was written solely by Gertrude. It is a notable piece of writing, because it includes detailed descriptions of Gertrude's visions and a veneration of Christ's heart.

Although Gertrude was never formally canonized, Rome approved a liturgical office of prayer and readings in her honor. To separate her from Abbess Gertrude of Hackeborn, Pope Benedict XIV gave her the title, "the Great," making her the only woman saint to be called, "the Great."

St. Gertrude the Great is the Patroness of the West Indies and she is often invoked for souls in purgatory. Her feast day is celebrated on November 16. (Source: <http://www.catholic.org>)



### Anointing of the Sick

At all the Masses this weekend, we will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. To help everyone self-determine if they would like to be anointed, below is a brief article explaining the "rules" for this sacrament.

According to the Roman ritual, anyone among the faithful "whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age" not only may, but should, receive the sacrament. Some examples include:

- A person who is considered in danger of death.
- A person who has a serious disease or medical condition (e.g. cancer, heart disease, mental illness, diabetes). The sacrament may be repeated if the person's condition becomes more serious.
- A person preparing for surgery, if a serious illness is the reason for the surgery.
- An elderly person if they have become notably weakened by age, even if there is no particular serious illness present.
- A seriously sick child.



## Growing in Faith

*"My heart is glad, and my soul rejoices."* That's the message in Psalm 16, this weekend's responsorial, and, over the years, that's often been the spirit at this time of year when St. Gertrude parish has celebrated the feast of its saint on November 16.

This, though, is one of those years when the pain of life is more likely to prompt mourning rather than celebration. For new members of the parish who have come from St. Ignatius, there is sorrow at the loss of a spiritual home that nurtured neighborhood Catholics for more than a century.

And it's been a struggle for all members of the St. Gertrude parish, old and new, to find ways to get to know each other — ways to blend together in a new faith family — at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic keeps pushing us apart. Midway through this year, it was a joy to be able to come to Mass without wearing a mask. And then we had to mask-up once again.

The writers of the psalms were familiar with difficult times. So was our patron, St. Gertrude the Great, a mystic and great theologian. She taught that the powerlessness we feel when events are out of our control is a source of joy rather than fear — joy because it helps us recognize that all we can do is to love. To love God and love each other. The rest will take care of itself.

~ Patrick T. Reardon

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## Essay Contest for 7th & 8th Graders

Students in 7th and 8th grade are invited to submit essays based on this prompt: *We have been experiencing a lot of different catastrophes all over: the pandemic, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, war, etc. What we also see on the news are "bad news" stories that tell of people expressing hatred, violence, discrimination, and other evils demonstrating the worst of humanity. But there are many people who are making the world a better place...you!*



The essay should focus on where the good news can be found within the bad news and explain how the good news you are sharing in your essay reflects the message of Jesus

Entries should be 500–650 words. Spelling and grammar count. Students may send their essay entry to Eloy Escamilla at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) or mail/drop it off at the Rectory at 1420 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.

Entries must be submitted online or postmarked by Monday, December 13, 2021. The three best essays will receive a gift card and will appear on our website.



# CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

- **LEARN** about those living in poverty.
- **ACT** and spread the word about poverty by sharing this flier.
- **CONNECT** with the work of CCHD by supporting the collection.
- **PRAY** for those who benefit from this collection.

We all depend on workers in America’s meat-processing plants and animal-feeding operations, who are essential to the food supply chain. Many of them are immigrants facing language barriers that leave them at a disadvantage when they advocate for safe working conditions, just wages, and fair treatment from employers. The Rural Community Workers Alliance (RCWA) in Missouri helps these essential workers by advocating on their behalf for safe working conditions and by promoting gatherings to address racial divisions in the community as a way to help immigrants and nonimmigrants discover similarities and share their experiences.

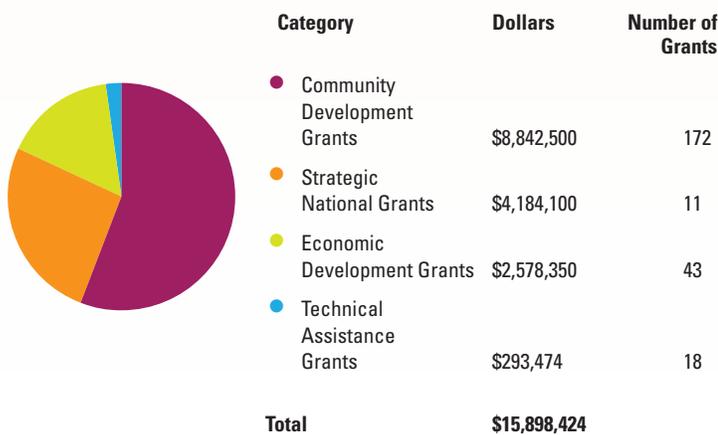
The COVID-19 pandemic revealed working conditions at a pork-processing plant that placed workers at risk of infection due to shoulder-to-shoulder work areas and a lack of protective gear. Workers brought their concerns to RCWA and ultimately filed a lawsuit demanding that the company follow health and safety guidelines established by the federal government. Even before the court ruled

on the lawsuit, the company took action to protect workers by installing protective barriers, sanitizing stations, providing masks, and conducting temperature checks. When you support CCHD’s mission of working on the margins, you help groups such as RCWA advocate for the health and safety of the essential workers that we all depend upon.

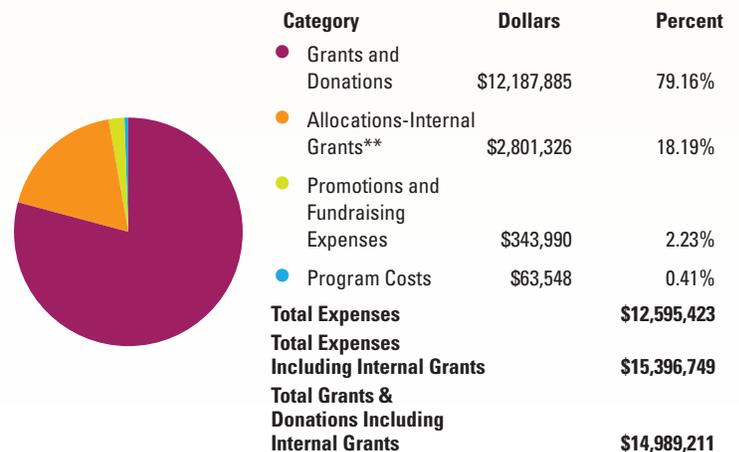
To learn more about the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, visit [www.usccb.org/cchd/collection](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection).

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) allocates funds to community projects that promote the mission and vision of CCHD while adhering to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Please visit [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd) to view funding criteria and see a detailed list of our most recent grants and annual report.

## 2019-2020 GRANTS



## 2019 EXPENSES



\*\*Internal grants include a distribution from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection for CCHD operations expenses and for USCCB Justice, Peace and Human Development’s Education and Outreach program that includes engaging Catholics in our faith-filled call to address the root causes of poverty.



**Office of National Collections**

3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3346 • [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd) • [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)

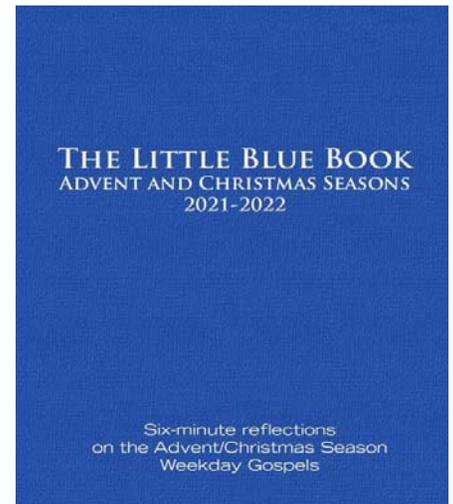
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## This Weekend: Little Blue Books Available

The Little Blue Book - Advent and Christmas Season are available at the church doors. These booklets provide a six-minute reflection a day, and their readings are a great way to slow down, focus, and dedicate some time to God during this holy season.

There is a suggested donation of \$1.



**care for real**  
FOOD • CLOTHING • SUPPORT

## Care for Real Needs Volunteers

Care for Real is experiencing a surge in need for food assistance, with more than 35,000 pantry visits so far in 2021, compared to 24,000 during the same period in 2020.

The organization distributes food to approximately 140-200 families in need each week.

You can help Care for Real provide this fresh and nutritious food by signing up to volunteer! Time slots for volunteering are available Monday-Saturday between 8:30 am-4:00 pm and until 7:00 pm on Thursdays. Sign up for a shift today by visiting [careforreal.org/get-involved/volunteer](https://careforreal.org/get-involved/volunteer) or sending an email to [volunteer@careforreal.org](mailto:volunteer@careforreal.org).

## Poetry Pilgrims Gatherings

*"It could be verse."* Poetry Pilgrims, our parish's poetry-reading group, discusses poems of all kinds from recognized authors. If you've ever been curious about poetry and how it can enrich your life, why not sign up to receive poems, and maybe even join us occasionally? No background is needed-- we learn by sharing each other's questions and insights.

We meet on the third Monday of each month, via Zoom, so we're undeterred by distance and weather.

For more info, contact Roy Lipscomb at 773.338.3564 or [lipscomb@margrover.com](mailto:lipscomb@margrover.com).





## Repair, Renew, Refresh

This is the final week of our Repair, Renew, Refresh campaign. Our goal was to raise \$100,000 to address some specific needs in our parish buildings and to establish an assistance fund for parishioners with children attending NCA. I am very happy to report that we have received over \$158,000!

These funds will enable us to continue the mission of St. Gertrude by maintaining our buildings and supporting Catholic education.

The much-needed repairs include: Exterior repairs to the church and rectory roofs, and internal repairs from water damage, installation of two handrails between the main floor of church to the sanctuary, and two handrails from the lower sanctuary level to the altar level to increase accessibility, re-carpeting the church, rebuilding the deteriorated entrance stairs to the parish hall/gym/classroom building and the stairs at the south (accessible) entrance to the church.

Additionally, we will establish a Fund for Catholic Education for parish families with children attending NCA in need of financial help to enroll, as well as to have funds available for families in crisis due to health, employment, or other unexpected situations.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the campaign!! Your gift makes this possible!

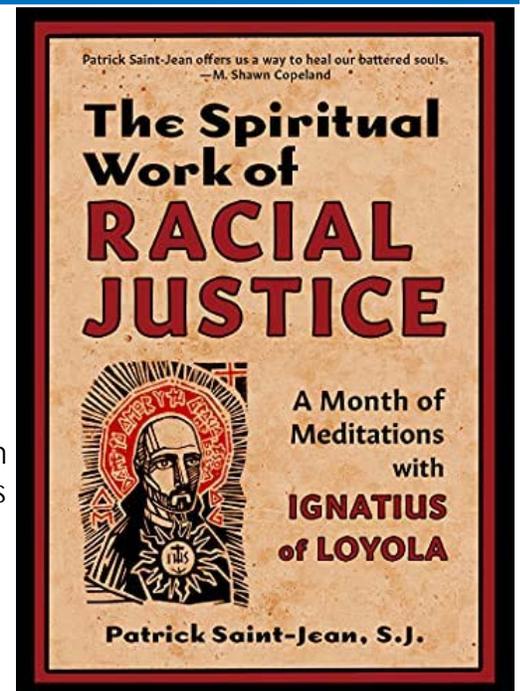
~ Father Rich

## Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Planned for Monday, November 15

The Peace and Justice Committee held its inaugural meeting on Monday, October 25. Newcomers are welcome to join us at our next meeting which will be on Monday, November 15 at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center.

We will be spending the next several meetings reflecting on "The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice: A Month of Meditations with Ignatius of Loyola" by Patrick Saint-Jean, S.J. The book can be ordered via <http://www.anamcharabooks.com/> -- look under "Featured Works."

Email Fr. Mike Gabriel at [mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org) or call him at 773-764-3621 if you plan to attend on Monday, November 15, or if you have any questions!



## Refugee & Immigrant Ministry Online Event Planned for Thursday, November 18; Second Collection Scheduled for November 27-28

The Refugee and Immigrant Ministry is hosting an online event on Thursday, November 18 at 7:00 pm featuring Kathy Kelly. Reflecting on an Afghan phrase, her talk is entitled, "*Blood does not wash away: finding new ways forward as we seek to abolish war.*"

For those who don't know of Kathy Kelly's work, she is a peace activist who has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize since 2000. In 1996, she helped to found Voices in the Wilderness, a group which bears witness to the suffering which the U.S./U.N.-imposed sanctions have visited upon the people—especially the children—of Iraq. She has traveled to Afghanistan dozens of times and coordinates the Ban Killer Drones campaign, reminding us that it will be important to keep international focus on the people of Afghanistan.

The Zoom login is: <https://bit.ly/KathyKellyTalk>

Meeting ID: 704 680 6737; Passcode: 523901; Dial in: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

This promises to be an inspiring and powerful evening. Hope to see you there!

Additionally, a member of the Ministry will speak at Masses on Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22. The following weekend, November 27 and 28, there will be a second collection to support the Refugee & Immigrant Ministry.

~ Denise Goodman



### This Weekend's Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

#### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, November 13 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, November 14 at 8:00 am - David Sullivan
- Sunday, November 14 at 10:30 am in church - Sarah Millar

#### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, November 13 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, November 14 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, November 14 at 10:30 am in church - Debra Novak, Troy McMillian, Sarah Millar

#### Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, November 13 at 5:00 pm - Carol Ann Munro
- Sunday, November 14 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, November 14 at 10:30 am in church - Mike Callahan; Dana Sullivan-flute, Denise Goodman-clarinet; Small Vocal Ensemble: Monina Cruz, soprano; Therese Schreiner, alto; Joe Pindelski, tenor; and Fran Guenette, bass

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, November 15: 7:30 am - Lillian McCall +
- Tuesday, November 16: 7:30 am - Martin Fadanoughbo +
- Wednesday, November 17: 7:30 am - Kathleen Keable +
- Thursday, November 18: 7:30 am - Communion service
- Friday, November 19: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 8:00am NCA School Mass - Fr. Bill Kenneally +
- Saturday, November 20: 7:30 am - Nancy Quinn Jaskowiak +; 5:00 pm - George Senar, Sr. +
- Sunday, November 21: 8:00 am - Nathan +, Libby + and Noreen + Waters; 10:30 am - Katarzyna Oleszczak +; Kathleen Naughton +

*+ indicates the person is deceased*

## Rest in Peace

- Harold Mann, husband of Pat Mann

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- Pamela Sherrod Anderson
- Helen Banta
- Jean Bautista
- Walter Bradford
- Sharon Brown
- Connie Bueck
- Lilly Buie
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- Connie Cool
- Caloy Desembrana
- Ann Collins Dole
- Christine Frisoni
- Shirley Marie Gonzales
- Felipe Hall and Family
- Lucia Hall
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Daniel Hidalgo
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Dean Mattoni
- Sr. Terri McKenzie
- Molly Morris
- Karey Myers
- Massielle Ojeda
- Tina Piemonte
- Charley Scantlebury
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel
- The Sullivan family
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Manuel & Norma Viray
- Valerie Williams
- Ken & Vyes Yoza

## Donate to our Parish

Parishioners can donate to St. Gertrude:

- Text the word *Donate* to 1.773.741.9505.
- PayPal link - visit our parish website at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) for additional information.

*Our Heart to Heart office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm. Contact them at 773.973.5464.*

## Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident Priest  
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music  
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director, Heart to Heart  
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate  
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry  
Laurie Hasbrook, Office/Heart to Heart Staff  
Samantha Lilly, Rectory Office  
Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer  
Tracy Shields, Communications  
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management