St. Thomas More Parish: a diverse community of prayer and service

LYNNWOOD

BY ARMANDO MACHADO

Parishioners at St. Thomas More Church in Lynnwood have a parish where the mission is to “invite all to discover and share the love of God through prayer, education, worship and service.”

And at the parish school, staffers and students have a school where the goal is “to develop within students a deep understanding and love of their Catholic faith and the Christian principles and practices upon which it is based.”

In addition, the school seeks to “provide excellence in academics, physical education and the arts…to develop within students a positive self image and sense of personal responsibility.”

As for the pastoral council, members say they seek to create, inspire and demonstrate leadership and enthusiasm for all parish activities. They say that in fostering the community, council members are challenged to ongoing renewal through prayer, listening and dialogue.

John Alexy has been a pastoral council member for four years — Larry McNutt is on his third year. Both are family men with many years of active involvement in the parish.

“The parish has been the focus of our family life,” said McNutt, whose two sons attended the parish school. His wife, Gail, served as development director of the school for several years.

“It offers a lot and it’s very diverse,” Alexy said of the parish community, adding that he and his wife, Donna, participate in Eucharistic adoration. He said his wife’s parish volunteer work has included helping to minister to the homeless.

St. Thomas More Parish was founded in 1962. It has 1,990 registered households. St. Thomas More School has grades K-8. Student enrollment is at 240. “Our school, which is currently undergoing accreditation, is known for the success of its speech team,” noted Father Bob Camuso, the pastor.

Father Camuso said that having been pastor of St. Thomas More Parish for just six months, he is grateful for the wonderful welcome given to him by the community upon his arrival.

“I am also grateful for the multicultural makeup of this community,” he said, noting also that it is sometimes difficult to book one of the many parish meeting rooms “because they are being used constantly by a host of outreach ministries, prayer groups, or for cultural celebrations.”

Father Camuso said he is also excited about a plan to add a fifth liturgy to the weekend schedule with a LifeTeen Mass that will begin next autumn.

Father Camuso is host of the radio program “Conversations with Father Bob,” which began in April 2004. The hour-long program airs Saturdays on KKNW 1150, beginning at 8 a.m. The program is an outreach ministry of St. Thomas More Parish. Father Camuso is also founder of SacraMentors, a men’s spirituality ministry.

In residence at St. Thomas More Parish is Father William Treacy, who, like Father Camuso also has media experience. Father Treacy co-hosted KOMO-TV’s “Challenge” interfaith discussion show for 14 years ending in 1974. He is co-founder of the Camp Brotherhood interfaith retreat center near Mount Vernon.

St. Thomas More Parish

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Registered households: 1,990
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