

- Welcome Diana Erlandson!
- Father Bill's Sabbatical in Rome
- Adult Confirmation Program News
- Save the Date: Feastday Funfest

Welcome To Our New School Principal, Diana Erlandson

With the first day of school just days away, we'd like to educate you about our new school principal, Diana Erlandson. St. Matthew's is proud to welcome such an experienced and energetic administrator to our school. Here's what Diana had to say about herself:



Diana Erlandson is the new St. Matthew School principal.

"My name is Diana Erlandson and with great enthusiasm, I am happy to introduce myself as your new school principal!

I am proud to be the newest member

of St. Matthew's faith community. During the upcoming months, I will work hard to learn more about each of you.

In the meantime, I would like to share some information about myself. I am a wife and a proud mother of two beautiful daughters. I have ten years of experience in the field of education, five of which have been in a Catholic School. I truly believe that working with children is a blessing.

I look forward to continuing the great things that are already in place. I also look forward to working together to help St. Matthew's grow!"

Here's what those on the search committee had to say about Diana:

"She is an enthusiastic and dynamic person with all sorts of wonderful ideas on how to make our school a great school. She impressed us with her strong background and desire to help us continue and grow in the quality education, Christian values, and good human relationship skills we want for our children and families."

— Fr. William Stanfield, Pastor and Search Committee Member

"I am excited about having Diana join our staff. I am impressed with her professional demeanor. I know she is going to bring new life to our school. She is very knowledgeable and has high educational standards."

— Shari Reimer, Kindergarten Teacher and Search Committee Member

"I was looking for the following qualities in a principal: 1. Someone who could advance the academic quality of the school overall - Diana has a good understanding of standardized test scores and interpretation, and had some great ideas of incorporating best practices into St. Matthew School. 2. Someone who could work well on an interpersonal level with many different people - Diana exhibits great communication and collaboration skills, which will come in handy when dealing with students, parents, school staff and parish staff. 3. Someone who had lots of enthusiasm - Diana is a high energy person who will be a great promoter and marketer of the school. As a parent, I am excited about Diana as our new principal, and I look forward to working with her on the Board of Education."

— Sue Chilson, Search Committee Member

Continued on next page.

Principal, continued from page one.

“As a member of the Personnel Committee, we were looking for someone who had both a strong background on instructional best practices and academics as well as a warm and welcoming personality. Diana displayed all of this - her understanding of how the students best learn, her commitment to collaboration with teachers to ensure learning and success of students in the classroom and her desire to connect with parents and parishioners convinced me she is a great fit for St. Matthew’s.”

— *Cathy Cramer, Search Committee Member*

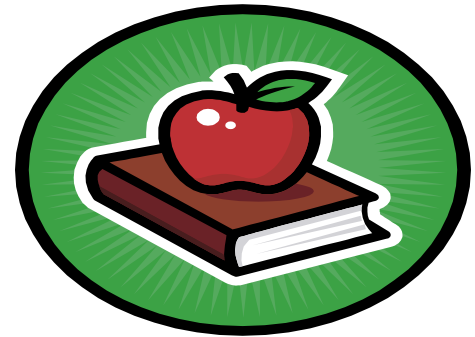
“As a parish member, parent of school children and parish council chairperson, I was looking for a dynamic person with excellent leadership skills, and as Sue said, someone who will bring out the best in St. Matt’s academically. Diana will certainly meet and exceed our expectations, and we are all looking forward to working with her to make our school the best.”

— *Micki Klappa-Sullivan, Search Committee Member*

“There were a number of reasons Diana Was hired, but for me it was Diana’s energy. She will definitely be an asset to St. Matthew’s family. She will be able to relate well with the parents and the teachers and I know the kids are going to find her awesome. She is not only a strong leader but is also very diplomatic and personable. Welcome Aboard Diana!”

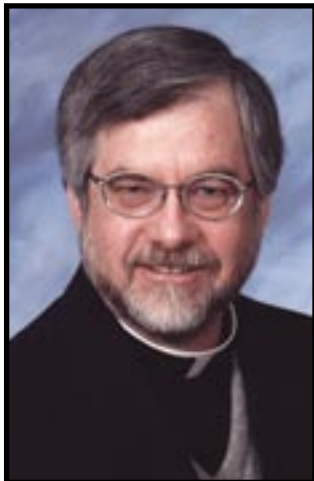
— *Shelly Madden, Director of Youth Ministry and Search Committee Member*

— *article by Amy Cicigoi*



Fr. Bill Plans 3-month Sabbatical in Rome

A sabbatical is meant to be a time of renewal and spiritual as well as intellectual growth. Fr. Bill says, “I certainly



An opportunity to learn and grow in faith awaits Fr. Bill.

hope it will help me to be a better person and priest. I am going with a sense of openness to what God has in store for me. More than saying this is what I want to have happen,

I’m going to see where God leads me and be open to what God has in mind for me.”

During his 29 years as a priest, this will only be Fr. Bill’s second sabbatical. The first one he went on was in Sierra Leone in West Africa. During that time, he lived at and attended the Pastoral Institute for 6 weeks... and then he lived in several parishes and worked with the priests and pastoral staffs there for 8 weeks.

Opportunity For Spiritual Growth

Concerning his upcoming sabbatical, Fr. Bill had 25 different places around the world he could have chosen from. He said, “I was looking for a place that offered not only good teachers and topics for the classes, but also a place to help me grow spiritually.”

Fr. Bill did consider a program in Jerusalem, but decided that he could also work on... and maybe even finish his doctoral thesis better at the North

American College in Rome.

One of the biggest questions I am sure Fr. Bill gets from parishioners is what will he be doing during this time in Italy? He explained, “There are classes everyday with about 20 professors giving shortened week-long versions of classes they teach at various universities in Rome. Some of the classes include going to some of the ancient sites and Churches in Rome, and then a trip to Assisi as well.”

Participating With Colleagues from Throughout the United States

There will also be time to pray and reflect and discuss with the other 20 or more other priests in the program from all over the United States. There will also be time for sight-seeing. On

Continued on next page.

Fr. Bill, continued from page two.

weekends and during a mid-term break he and the other priests will have a chance to see various parts of Rome and Italy.

Fr. Bill also says that he's unsure if he will get any time to meet personally with Pope Benedict XVI.

There are some similarities and differences between Fr. Bill's sabbatical in Africa and his upcoming journey to Rome. He says, "This time I am not taking a camera. I would like this to be more of a time to be renewed and led by God's Spirit, than being concerned with what I will tell people when I get back. If we have any really good professors or courses, maybe I will give some presentations on what they have to say or at least include that in future homilies."

A Much-Appreciated Opportunity

Fr. Bill will be missed by everyone at St. Matthew, but even though he will be gone physically from the parish for three months – he will be with us in thought and prayer. He reflects, "It would be nice to take everyone with me, so that I wouldn't miss any of the parishioners and staff, but I am looking forward to less busyness and more time to pray and reflect and learning new insights. I want to thank the par-

ish for giving me this opportunity. I will keep you all in my prayers, as I hope I will be in yours. I hope I will come back as a better person and better able to serve all of you. Also being gone is a good chance for others to do things for and with you, that wouldn't happen if I was there, so hopefully my sabbatical time will be a blessing for all of us. May God bless each one of you."

May God bless you, too, on a safe and spiritually rewarding trip.

— *article by Robert Tabern*



Adult Confirmation Program Takes on New Look

Starting in a few months, the Adult Confirmation program at St. Matthew Parish will take on a new and exciting look.

Instead of just providing sessions for parishioners and their sponsors here at St. Matt's, we will be working with other parishes to provide new, combined sessions. Our hope is that by working collaboratively with our neighboring parishes we will have a stronger program with more participants. Candidates and sponsors will get to hear more viewpoints and meet other staff, formation team members and parishioners from surrounding parishes.

Spiritual Growth A Benefit of Collaboration With Other Parishes

Pastoral Associate Alice Hatzenbeller says, "The challenge will be getting people to move beyond their comfort zone in their own parish -- to actually head to other parishes in our collaboration group for formation opportunities." After a number of planning meetings with the teams of our neighboring parishes last winter and spring, we put together the program we will



**Pastoral Associate
Alice Hatzenbeller**

pilot this year with St. Mary's by the Lake and St. Louis parishes located in Caledonia. Adult Confirmation candidates will commute to other parishes for some of the sessions. We are hoping that the combined resources of three parishes will give candidates a much better experience.

January Launch Planned

The program will formally begin in January 2006. In February, three classes will be held at St. Louis Parish and St. Matthew Parish will then host three classes during March and April. Then each parish will meet with their individual candidates and their sponsors for

Continued on next page.

Confirmation, con't from page three.

additional sessions in preparations for the celebration of Confirmation. Candidates will celebrate Confirmation in their home parish. St. Matthew's adult candidates will be confirmed on Pentecost (June 4th). Then the combined group will come together for a final session at St. Mary's by the Lake to talk about their journey together.

A Proven Success

Alice Hatzenbeller says, "Other parish clusters in the Milwaukee Archdiocese already have combined Adult Confirmation programs and they seem to be working really well." This new Adult Confirmation program is just one example of how our Southern Cross Collaboration is working to help our communities learn and grow together.

During the coming months, all parishioners are encouraged to visit the other parishes in our Collaboration Group and to watch our bulletin for the dates and times of other adult formation

programs which will be offered.



If you, or someone you know is interested in being confirmed as an adult, you are encouraged to contact Alice Hatzenbeller. Call Alice at 762-4200 ext. 24, or send an email to ahatzenbeller@stmattoc.org to learn more about this spiritually rewarding opportunity.

— *article by Robert Tabern*

Special thanks to Alice Hatzenbeller for her assistance with this article

Parishes Collaborating With St. Matthew Parish

St. Stephens, Milwaukee

5880 S. Howell at the airport
Masses: Saturday, 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

St. Louis, Caledonia

13207 County Road G.
Masses: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.

St. Mary's by the Lake, Racine

7605 Lakeshore Drive
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Don't Miss St. Matthew's Feast Day Funfest on Saturday, September 24th!

Join us after the Saturday Mass on September 24th for fun and fellowship with other St. Matthew's parishioners. A cookout is planned as well as children's and family games, a DJ and a bonfire. Remember what a great time we had last year?

St. Matthew Parish Buzz

Produced by the St. Matthew
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New Parishioners

Ryan and Karen Gonzalez

Christopher and Jennifer Blunt, Lauren, Morgan, Jenna, Ryan

Tom and May Chojnowski, Alexis and Kalsie

Darrell and Carolyn Schaefer, Taylor and Parker

Anne Marie Dain