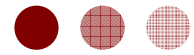


# MASH Messenger



The newsletter for the Men of Sacred Heart Cathedral School

Faith, Fellowship, Philanthropy

## Upcoming events

### **Fish Fry at SHCS**

Every Friday of Lent, join your fellow Sacred Heart parishioners in the cafeteria for food and fellowship. MASH volunteers are needed to help with food prep, clean up and supervision of kids who are in the gym. If you can help please email me, [mick.connors@yahoo.com](mailto:mick.connors@yahoo.com)

### **Men's Night Out -- Are your kids cooler online? March 23rd**

**Naples in Bearden-6pm**  
We will enjoy dinner and discuss a very timely topic--the good, the bad, and the ugly of the internet and the impact on our kids. Come and share your insights on facebook, my space, instant messaging, etc.. We are also hoping to have an officer who specializes in internet crimes to enlighten us on the dangers our kids face.

### Coming soon

#### **SHCS Auction April 25<sup>th</sup>**

Look for more details coming from the Home and School Association. Funds raised will go to our own SHCS community.

#### **April Family event UT baseball vs Arkansas April 26<sup>th</sup> 1pm**

Come enjoy a Sunday afternoon at the ballpark. Kids get in free and after the game the kids will get to run the bases and meet the team. Does it get any better than that? Look for more info and how to get tickets -- coming soon. Thanks to Sam Albritton and Coach Raleigh.

#### **Men's Night Out -- Brewing your Faith May 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm Calhoun's Bearden**

Deacon Dave and Marty Velas are working on this great event. Look for more details to come soon. A great opportunity to learn about brew making and it's parallels with faith building.



Joe Champelli and his daughter Audrey enjoy some time together during March Madness. Photo from Pam Rhoades.



## Men of SHCS: Dad's and Donuts

Gents,

If you are not aware we have begun a new concept for Dads called Dads and Donuts. This development of Dad's and Donuts comes from Don Naab and is off to a great start.

Don borrowed the idea from one of his favorite books by Tim Russert called "Wisdom of Our Fathers." In this book, Mr. Russert talks about his great memories of his Dad taking him to school. These times left him with great memories of his Dad.

So Don and MASH would like to invite you to do the same. Any Friday you can bring your child to school and then come meet with you're your fellow Dad's in the Shea room.

These meetings are very informal. Please come when you can and feel welcome any time to join us.

The current schedule is -- --  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday we will attend mass with our kids (and not meet in the Shea room.)

-2<sup>nd</sup> Friday -- Ms. Prater will meet with us and is open to questions about the school.

-3<sup>rd</sup> Friday -- MASH members and school board members Cory Bond and Brian Rhoades will provide updates.

-4<sup>th</sup> Fridays -- are currently open for general discussion about fatherhood etc...

So leave a little early, take

your child for a donut if you like, drop them off and then come meet with your fellow Dads.

We have had great turnout so far and look forward to making more memories with our kids and meeting our fellow Dads as well.

Thanks again to Don Naab for all his work on this venture.

**Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.**

**-1 Peter 4:10**

## MASH is going high tech!!

MASH is delighted to announce several ways in which you can stay informed about all things related to MASH.

**Webpage** -- check out our new web page on the school website. This site will have pictures, newsletters and also a link to join. It also has a link to our new blog.

**The Blog** -- our new blog is a great way for us to keep you updated, has links to the school site, and offers many key links for

fatherhood and spirituality. I would encourage you to check it out and please add comments and provide feedback on what you would like to see on the site.

**Logo**—Thanks to Jerry Smith for his handiwork. See it above, the SHCS logo with the larger hands of a father's support. Let us know your thoughts. You may comment on the blog.

### Web Links to check out

MASH Website

<http://www.shcschool.org/parent-mash.asp>

MASH Blog

<http://menandsacredheart.blogspot.com/>

## Lend a Hand Fund -- Editorial

Likely you have received a letter related to this fund from Ms. Prater and if you have children at Catholic High you also received a letter from Mr. Sompyrac. If you are like me, these letters are combined with letters related to many other fundraisers and worthy causes which you have supported in the past. With these letters, bailout funds and the "stimulus" package I must honestly admit it all seems a bit overwhelming. My initial reaction was frustration and a sense of exasperation. My frustration and exasperation were not for these families but came from my own worries of how all these things were going to impact me. Not very Christian, I know, but my initial reaction were thoughts of rising tuition, rising taxes, and more requests for bailout funds. Where is it going to end? Then I spoke to Deacon David and emailed Sedonna Prater and began to reflect on the opportunity before us. Yes, a great opportunity that this "lend a hand fund" offers.

Deacon David and Ms Prater relayed to me that there are many families in our parish and in our diocese who are going through tremendous financial struggles. These families have to make difficult choices and one of these difficulties is whether they can afford to keep their children in Catholic school. This fund was developed rather quickly as many have realized the rather sudden financial crisis that faces our nation. Our community is not immune to these struggles. Deacon Dave informed me that this fund is an emergency fund that will go to families in our parish and in our diocese to help offset tuition costs. These funds will offer hope and assistance to those in most need.

Hence, being humbled by this reality, and putting aside my own issues, I began to reflect on several questions and see the great opportunity before us:

First and foremost, what is God calling us to do in our lives? Clearly, we are called to love God and love others. What greater love than to offer hope to those in need, especially to those in need in our very own community? I was listening to a reflection about the story of the paralytic man who was lowered through the roof and was healed by Jesus (Mark 2: 1-12). We often focus on the healing power of Jesus and this man's faith. But this reflection challenged us to consider the four unnamed men who cut the hole in the roof and lowered this man in need down to be healed by Jesus? What an opportunity to ask ourselves if we can humbly offer to help others in time of need.....

Second, how important is Catholic education? Clearly, these families and their children could go elsewhere to learn reading, writing and arithmetic, so what is different about a Catholic education? What a great opportunity for us to reflect on why we send our children to SHCS. How important is it? What is the difference? Take some time and reflect on this question yourself. For me, I have to look no farther than last Friday when my eighth grade son invited me to attend Eucharistic Adoration with him. Every first Friday, the eighth grade students spend 20 minutes each in silent prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament. Words could never describe, nor value assessed, on these 20 minutes I spent kneeling and praying with my son. What an opportunity to reflect on the true value of Catholic education....

Finally, can I afford to help? Everyone is worried about their own home value, mortgage payment and rising bills and I am no exception. However, we are called to place God and others first, again what a great opportunity for us. For me, I began to look at the funds I spend on my kids own extracurricular activities. Like so many, we are spending a tremendous amount of money on these privileges. I am humbled to think about the funds we spend on competitive sports with the fees, travel, dining out etc... Can I really say that I cannot afford to help those in need as we continue to fill our wants? What a great opportunity to reflect on what are our *wants* and what truly are others *needs*.....

I would encourage each and everyone of you to consider these questions. Humble yourself and recognize what a great opportunity this "Lend a Hand" fund holds for you to do what you can to help your community in need. Just think about what you can do, (see the quote from Peter on page one). Thanks to Deacon David and Ms. Prater for their work on this very important endeavor and giving us this opportunity to help.

Mick Connors