



# aloysius alive

Vol. 38 No. 1

September 2022

## Remembering Fr. Robert 'Bob' Marcell



## Following Christ's call to serve others

By Paula Acaldo  
Stewardship through Ministry Chair

Jesus came to this world not to be served, but to serve. How can we serve as Jesus did? We should follow his example – showing love to one another by serving each other. When we show our love for one another, we change the world.

It seems there are too many in our world today who have forgotten how to show their love to others. However, the St. Aloysius faith community has so many wonderful ministry opportunities to serve as Jesus did – to love one another, especially our neighbors.

St. Aloysius Parish does such a great job of following Christ's call to put our faith into action or more importantly as He commanded us to put our love into action. Parishioners throughout our faith community minister to the sick, the suffering and the lonely through ministries that focus on sharing God's love. With more than 100 ministries, St. Aloysius has a ministry just right for you!

We need you, but most importantly, God needs you to use your gifts and talents through ministry. We have members of our parish who have been involved with ministry for many decades, and the one thing they all have in common is that they deeply desire to take God's love to others. When we all come together, we make such a difference. Ministry helps us to love one another, but our dedication to ministry also results in each of us growing closer to Christ, and in so doing, we feel his love.

This year St. Aloysius Parish's Total Stewardship theme is "This is my Commandment: Love One Another as I Have Loved You." During this year's Stewardship of Ministry campaign, we encourage you to join your fellow parishioners by showing your love through one of our many parish ministries.

Our parish Stewardship of Ministry weekend is Sept. 17-18. Please prayerfully discern how you can best show your love in St. Aloysius Parish. You can recommit to a

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## St. Aloysius pastor (1974-1984) a kind, effective parish leader

By Tyler Waggenpack

Although it has been nearly 40 to 50 years since his pastorate here at St. Aloysius, parishioners fondly remember Father Robert Marcell, known as Father Bob.

"He was the kindest, nicest person," said Gay Hebert, who was also a teacher at St. Aloysius School during his pastorate. "I enjoyed his homilies and enjoyed talking to him personally."

"He was very special to us," said Jim deBrueys whose wedding ceremony was officiated by Father Marcell here in 1977. "There was a closeness. Every time we saw him, we would sit and chat."

Father Marcell died peacefully on Sunday, July 24, in Baton Rouge at the age of 91. He studied at St. Joseph Seminary in Covington and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for his priestly formation. He was or-

daind on June 9, 1956. Out of his many years as a priest, he served 10 of those here at St. Aloysius. He took over in 1974 following the departure of Monsignor Daniel Becnel, founding pastor, and stayed until 1984. Our parish, still young at the time, kept steadily growing, and Father Marcell further built upon its foundation both physically and spiritually.

Father Marcell is credited for form-

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## Welcome, Father Nutan!

Father Nutan Minj, IMS, was welcomed and greeted by parishioners as our new Parochial Vicar at welcome receptions in his honor the weekend of Aug. 6-7. Father Nutan comes to us from Our Lady of Mercy Parish, where he served as their Parochial Vicar for the past seven years. His first day here at St. Aloysius was Aug. 1.



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### Share your Gifts in a Choir at St. Aloysius Church

Our parish has many choirs and music groups for different ages, Mass times and levels of commitment. We invite you to share your talent as a singer or musician in one of these groups. If you have questions or if you are not sure how to serve, please contact Ken Thevenet, Director of Worship, by email at [kthevenet@staloyusparish.com](mailto:kthevenet@staloyusparish.com) or by calling 225-343-6657, ext. 20

#### **The Parish Choir**

High School and adult singers and musicians. Serves each Sunday at 11 AM Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays; at 9 AM Mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Weekly rehearsals held on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 PM in the Convent Choir Room. If you enjoy singing during Mass, join us!

Contact: Ken Thevenet, [kthevenet@staloyusparish.com](mailto:kthevenet@staloyusparish.com), 225-343-6657, ext. 20

#### **The Festival Ringers**

A hand bell choir for musicians with some music reading experience. Plays for liturgy one Sunday a month. Weekly rehearsals on Mondays from 5:30-6:30 PM in the Convent.

Contact: Lenny Long, [lenny.long@cox.net](mailto:lenny.long@cox.net)

#### **The Children's Choir**

Young singers, from all schools, in grades 3-8. Sings one Sunday a month, often at 11 Mass. Weekly rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 2:45-4:30 PM in the Convent Choir Room. Contact: Danielle, Laird [DLaird@catholichigh.org](mailto:DLaird@catholichigh.org)

#### **5:30 PM Mass Music Ministry**

High school & young adult musicians. Sings each Sunday at 5:30 PM Mass, with a rehearsal in the hour before Mass in the Convent Choir Room. Contact: Erik Gudiel, [edgudi@gmail.com](mailto:edgudi@gmail.com)

## **New volunteer opportunities for Interfaith Federation Ministry**

The Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge continues its multiple services to the community with member congregations. St. Aloysius has been an active congregation since the organization's inception in 1986, joining Bishop Ott and other Catholic parishes. We are one of 47 current congregations represented by three parish delegates — Patience Moreno, Emily Ziober and Susan Hymel.

Now that we've been emerging from COVID restrictions, the opportunity to serve meals with seated table service returned for the Holy Grill at the BREC Cadillac Center in Zion City. St. Aloysius will continue its two weeks of serving — one in May and the other in November. Volunteers can sign up at [www.ifedgbr.com/news](http://www.ifedgbr.com/news).

Following the retirement of the Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade in 2021, the Rev. Jon Parks began his role as executive director. Quarterly meetings of delegates from the member congregations and denominations also returned, welcoming new members from other flocks.

One of St. Aloysius' Christmas ministries, Gifts for Zion City Children, also serves the same

community as the Holy Grill. It's coordinated by Georgette Fontenot, and those interested can sign up at the time of the Giving Tree during the Advent season.

The federation also initiated a gardening program thanks to the Healthy Living Programs of East Baton Rouge Parish, and partial bridge funding from the Wilson Foundation. The program focuses on planting fruit trees in yards, church grounds and public spaces, as well as planting a container vegetable garden.

The bridge grant also includes funding for the collection of new and gently used books for pre-K through sixth grade reading levels. This effort will be done with the help of the EBR School System and EBR Parish Library.

The third leg of this healthy living initiative will offer fall and spring health fairs with cooking demonstrations and a taste fair.

St. Aloysius' next availability for volunteers to assist at the Holy Grill will be Nov. 14-18. Other volunteer opportunities include assisting with weekly cooking at the IFED commercial kitchen, gardeners helping with the container gardening project, and donation of surplus fruit and vegetables in season.

## **Regular Mass Schedule**

### **SATURDAY**

\*Vigil 4:30 PM

### **SUNDAY**

7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM & 5:30 PM

### **DAILY MASSES**

Monday & Wednesday, 6 AM

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8 AM

This \* denotes Mass is livestreamed via our website at [www.aloyus.org/livestream](http://www.aloyus.org/livestream) or on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/staloyusbr](https://facebook.com/staloyusbr)

CONFESSIONS: Monday and Wednesday after 6 AM Mass; Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7:30-8 AM; Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM (when the adjacent Mass is celebrated).

FUNERALS: Please contact the Parish Office prior to scheduling with the funeral home. If after hours, follow directions on voicemail.

PARISH SCHOOL: For information, phone 383-3871, 8:30 AM- 3:30 AM

NURSERY/CHILDCARE CENTER: For information, phone 343-1338, 7 AM -5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptismal preparation is required. SPONSORS: Baptism & Confirmation sponsors must be confirmed practicing Catholics in good standing in the Catholic Church, and if not St. Aloysius Parishioners, must provide a letter of good standing from the parish where they are registered.

MARRIAGE: Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement at least six months prior to the projected date of the marriage.

CARE OF THE SICK: The Eucharist is brought to the sick weekly and hospital visits made weekly. Families of the sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office.

# **aloyus alive**



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## VBS attendees experience 'Wilderness Escape'



### Vacation Bible School a mix of fun, service

Vacation Bible School was celebrated during the week of June 13-16, with the theme "Wilderness Escape - Moses Leads the Israelites out of Slavery in Egypt. Trust God!"

It was the first VBS in nearly three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was attended by 185 campers, plus 14 children in the VBS Nursery. The week included music, games, crafts, snacks and skits.

Fifth- and sixth-graders worked on two service projects. They filled 150 "Bags of Hope" for the St. Vincent de Paul dining room. Bags of Hope is a program sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul to give homeless visitors food to go. Each bag contained a bottle of water, a juice pouch, a fruit cup, a piece of fruit and a cracker snack.

Fifth- and sixth-graders also learned how to make "plarn," or plastic yarn, by recycling plastic grocery bags. Plarn is used by various local groups to crochet sleeping mats for the homeless. The VBS students made enough balls of plarn to fill a paper shopping bag. It was donated to a local crochet group called "Crochet Compassion."

Special thanks to Julie Poche, Bonnie Kolb and the VBS Leadership Team, as well as all of the adult and junior volunteers who made VBS such a success. Also, thanks to Ronnie Haliburton, Madeline Laperouse and Aline Landry on the church parish staff for their assistance with the program.









# Stephen Ministry plans events for 2022-23

The Stephen Ministry members at St. Aloysius Parish have planned a host of activities this year designed to meet the needs of those who may be experiencing loss, grief or transition in their lives.

A 10-week grief support book study written by Dr. Alan Wolfelt launches in September with a series of 10 morning sessions. Morning grief support sessions begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Pastoral Services Center Conference Room, and continue every Wednesday, at the same time, on Sept. 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; and Nov. 2, 9.

The support group on Wednesdays will be led by Dana Territo, Stephen Ministry leader, who has been trained at the Alan Wolfelt Loss and Transition Center in Colorado. Other Stephen Ministry members will facilitate. Materials are \$25, which includes the book and journal. If you or someone you know is experiencing loss and sadness and would like to register for this support group, please contact the church office at 343-6657.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Stephen Ministry is sponsoring an Advent Retreat, "Waiting Patiently and Expectantly for God," to be held in the Atrium and Chapel. Registration will follow in the fall.

Training for new Stephen Ministry members begins in January 2023. For all those who are considering joining this caregiving ministry, new training will begin on Thursdays in January and conclude in April, with a commissioning service sometime afterwards. These training dates are Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 23, 30; and April 20, 27.

During the Lenten Season, the Stephen Ministry will sponsor two spiritual events. Dr. Durwin Walker from Immaculate Conception Parish in Denham Springs will present the topic,



"Redemptive Suffering," in a two-part series, Monday and Tuesday, March 13 and 14, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the church. This series looks at the history of God's response to human suffering. Attendees will learn practical ways to apply God's teaching to their own suffering and to help others with better understand of the suffering that comes into their lives.

The second event, "Broken, Burdened, and Blessed," will again be offered during the 2023 Lenten season and is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. This special candle-lighting ceremony offers thoughtful prayer and contemplation as we unearth our brokenness, embracing it as we move toward the cross and the empty tomb.

The St. Aloysius Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry that supplements pastoral care. The program teaches lay persons to provide one-on-one care to individuals facing a variety of crises or life challenges, such as hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, grief, divorce, cancer, financial difficulties and other life struggles. For more information regarding events, or if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Kathy Nikolaus, knikolaus@cox.net or 225-603-7772; Ann McCrory, annabonan@att.net or 225-235-7850; Bob Schoen, bobschoen18@gmail.com or 225-937-2984; or Dana Territo, territo4@yahoo.com or 225-572-9250.

Additionally, if you are in need of a Stephen Minister, or know someone who would benefit, please call the church office at 343-6657, or contact Bob Schoen, Stephen Ministry leader, at (225) 937-2984, or email at bobschoen18@gmail.com.



## Marcell, From Page 1

ing a parish staff in 1974, consisting of three priests, a director of religious education, a school principal and a social responsibility coordinator. In 1978, the first full-time lay director of religious education was hired, and later, our parish's first youth minister. He also spearheaded the efforts for the building of a new rectory, school gymnasium/community center (now known as the "Old Gym"), and church office space (now the convent where the choir practice room is located).

He was known for his empowerment and education of the laity, especially after the Second Vatican Council. He expanded and added ministries; advocated for girls as altar servers and the inclusion of women in various ministry roles; and trained parishioners to be Eucharistic ministers.

"His vision as a parish was a community of disciples and the people of God," said Candy Muse, a former parishioner and member of Father Marcell's staff. "And that his role was to help form the people."

Muse, a parishioner from 1968 to 2011, also served as director of religious education when Father Marcell hired her in 1981, replacing Carolyn Thornton, the first lay DRE. Although Muse had no formal religious education background, Father Marcell gave her guidance and support in her formation. She took 21 hours of undergraduate studies at St. Joseph Seminary, and later obtained a master's degree in pastoral ministry from Loyola University.

"He gave me opportunities; he saw gifts in me I would have never seen in myself, and he helped me see that in others by asking me to be director of



religious education," Muse said.

Long after Father Marcell's pastorate here ended, he found his way back for retirement, taking up residency in a parish-owned home off Mimosa Street at the recommendation of the Parish Council. By doing so, he celebrated Mass, heard confessions and helped with sacramental emergencies when needed. He also participated in parish activities.

Sandy Brown, a longtime parishioner, recalls Father Marcell's participation in a parish adult education committee nearly 20 years ago. The committee was looking for resources and ways adults could deepen their faith. It was suggested that Father Marcell lead the group, being a priest, but he insisted otherwise.

"He wanted to be part of the group and not necessarily lead it, but he had some great suggestions for us," Brown said.

Even when his health declined years later and he was eventually placed at Southside Gardens, Brown would often bring him to St. Aloysius to attend Mass. She would also visit him for lunch and other social activities at the nursing home, like Christmas and Mardi Gras parties. One year, Father Marcell was even crowned

as royalty for the "King of Hearts" Valentine's Day party there. Brown recalls that despite his failing health he retained his gentle spirit.

"I remember him being a kind man, a gentle man. He couldn't remember my name in those last few years, so he would call me 'Dear Lady,'" Brown said. "People would come up to him in church and he would say to them 'Do you know Dear Lady?' I thought it was a sweet thing."

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Father Marcell on July 29 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Patterson, La. He was buried next to his parents' grave site at the cemetery connected to the church. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at St. Aloysius, with Bishop Michael Duca presiding. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

Father Marcell will live in the memory of friends, family and the many he served through his priesthood, especially here at St. Aloysius. May he rest in peace in the eternal company of our Lord whom he served and to whom he devoted his entire life. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

## Serve, From Page 1

ministry in which you're currently active, or you can sign up for one of our many other ministries that can be found, along with descriptions and videos, at the parish website, [www.aloysius.org/ministry](http://www.aloysius.org/ministry). The Ministry Sign-Up form can be completed by clicking on the link online or by calling the Parish Office at (225) 343-6657 to have a form mailed to your home.

Together, with God's blessings, our prayers and our commitment to serving Him by serving others, we can follow Jesus's commandment: Love One Another as I Have Loved You at St. Aloysius Parish!

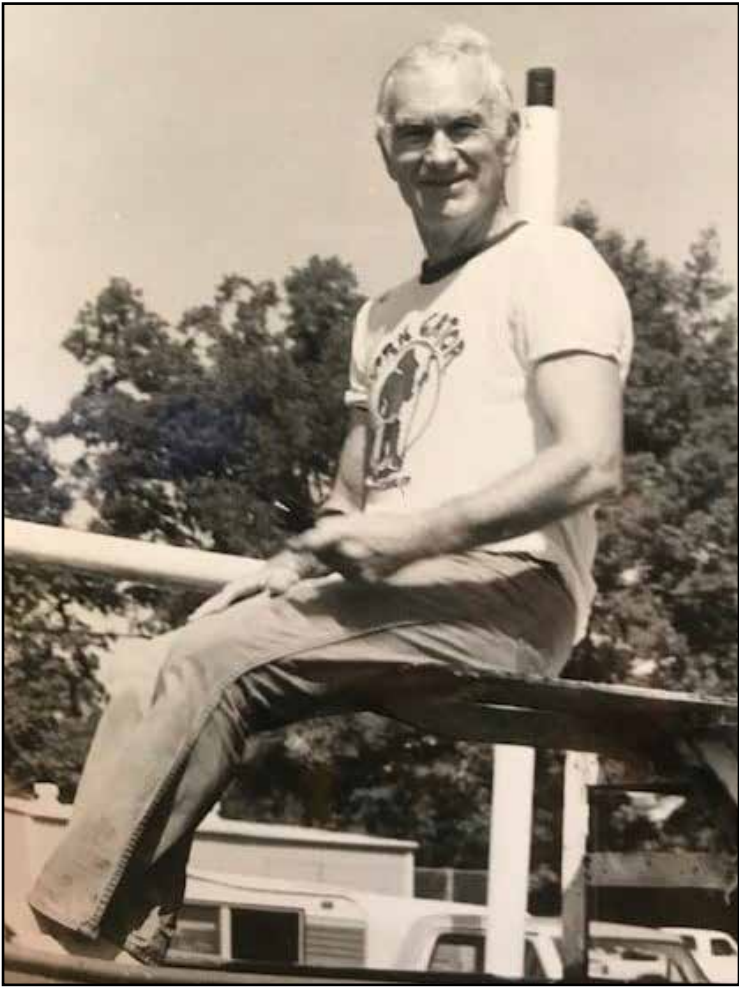
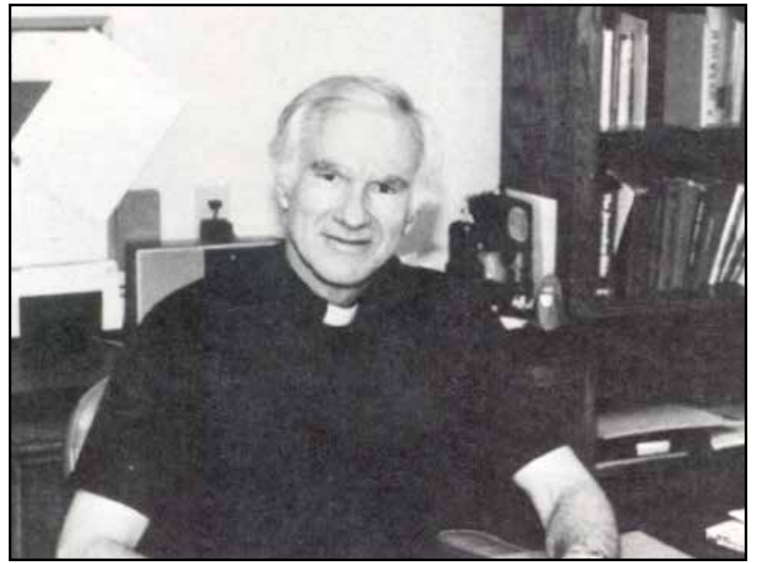
### STEWARDSHIP PRAYER:

Take, Lord, and receive  
All my liberty,  
My memory,  
My understanding,  
And my entire will,  
All I have and call my own.  
You have given it all to me.  
To you, Lord, I return it.  
Everything is yours;  
Do with it what you will.  
Give me only your love  
And your grace;  
That is enough for me.

-St. Ignatius of Loyola  
The Suscipe Prayer



**‘His vision ... was  
a community of disciples  
and the people of God’**





# SAS Service Projects: A Lesson in Serving Others

St. Aloysius School students and faculty try to practice the Corporal Works of Mercy — “feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.”

One example of this is our “Soles for Souls” collection. Sixth-graders sponsored the 3rd Annual Phil Quartararo Soles4Souls Collection. Mr. Phil Quartararo, the father of sixth-grade teacher Debbie Michael, was a proponent of this project.

What good can stinky old shoes do? Good shoes are distributed as is. Shoes needing help are used in training young people in shoe repair. Shoes beyond help are sold for recycling and the money used to buy vaccines for villages. The sixth-grade students



prepared the shoes for delivery, collecting an amazing 875 pairs of shoes. Through their efforts, the lives of the homeless and poor were improved, and sickness was prevented through vaccinations.

This school year, the tradition of service continues. Each month,

SAS will collect food to feed the hungry through All School Mass food collections. Two collections will prove to be extra special. The fifth-graders will sponsor a special “Peanut Butter and Jelly” Jam, a collection focusing on those perennial favorites. Seventh-graders

will sponsor a special breakfast cereal drive and will use the boxes to create a special domino-effect extravaganza.

Though students can’t visit the prisons, the school will assist the Kairos prison ministry team by providing cookies and artwork for their retreat. Visiting sick children in hospitals is also not possible, but second-graders will still sponsor a collection of art supplies for the children at Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital. Fourth-graders will help children with cancer through their artwork for the Bella Bowman Foundation. Third-graders will provide cheer for the residents of nursing homes by making holiday cards.

We work to help the homeless by supporting organizations that reach out to them. Pre-k will sponsor a book drive for the St.

Vincent de Paul family shelters. First-graders will collect and sort travel size toiletries for the Volunteers of America homeless shelter.

Students will also work to help those families in the community who are less fortunate. Kindergartners will collect used Halloween costumes for the 10/31 Consortium’s Halloween Parade and activities. Eighth-graders will collect and package diapers for the Junior League diaper bank.

Thanks to the Service Committee members, parents and grandparents who volunteer to support the children participating in these projects. As the school year progresses, these opportunities will be used to learn more about others who are in need and how to “love your neighbor as you love yourself.”



## Constitution Week event

Ed Hardin, law partner with the Kean Miller firm and a St. Aloysius School alumnus, presents a donation to the Daughters of the American Revolution Canary Islands chapter. Representing the DAR Canary Islands chapter were Mrs. Pat Veazey and Mrs. Betty Langlinais. The donation will supply Constitution booklets and posters to the eighth-grade social studies class taught by Mrs. Lisa Mongrue. The booklets will be used during Constitution Week beginning Sept. 17. The students receiving these gifts are, from left: Andy St. Germain, Evan Milligan, Ladd Vigue, Luke Duval, Charles Lewis Gilcrease, Andrew Ferachi, Kate Funes, Tyler Denicola, Will Kleinpeter, Steve Cavalier, Charlie Bugea, Lucca Hyfield, Brady Foreman, Adrian Landry, Audrey LeBlanc, Maddie Landers, Jake Rowley, Mary Claire Roberts, Cecilia Anderson, Aubrey Smith, Sydney Faulk, Lila Charbonnet, Katie Beckers, Avery Jobe, Lily Melancon, and Abby Eldredge.

# SACCC ‘director designees’ keep center on track

The beginning of a school year brings much anticipation and excitement to families, students and teachers at the St. Aloysius Childcare Center! So much hard work and preparation goes into ensuring that children have a wonderful experience – from preparing classrooms to reassigning and hiring teachers, no detail is overlooked. Despite what goes on in the classroom, supplies must be ordered, absences covered and, most importantly, children loved.

While there’s uncertainty in the naming of a formal director, heroism is ever present in maintaining the center’s reputation as a loving, Christian-focused learning place where teachers and volunteers consistently show their commitment for the children and families of our Aloysius community. These unsung heroes answer countless emails, listen to feed-



back and concerns, and make the tough decisions – all with the best of intentions in mind. The advisory council and parents of the SACCC would like to formally acknowledge two incredible individuals who selflessly give to our community:

Ms. Tina Currier and Ms. Shaune Wells have been serving as “director designees” for the past six months, ensuring the security, safety, and all other requirements of the center.

Ms. Tina has been a part of our SACCC family for nearly 30

years. Since 1993, she has shown her love to over 638 children, and they certainly love her in return. She has a warm smile and commitment to education. In addition to teaching, Ms. Tina has now taken on the role of director designee not once, but twice in the last three years. She treats her SACCC family as her own and has left a lasting impression on so many little (and now big) lions!

Ms. Shaune came to the SACCC from the Early Learning Center, where she spent 16 years prior to joining us six years ago. She quickly found her place among the adored, with her calm and kind demeanor and thoughtfulness – even teaching some of us how to be moms. In the absence of a director, Ms. Shaune has been balancing time in the classroom, participating in inter-

views for the new director and ensuring proper support for her fellow teachers and classrooms.

Along with Matt Zylcz, business manager of St. Aloysius, Ms. Shaune and Ms. Tina have undertaken these roles and seized the opportunity to make a positive impact at the center. They’ve done so by means of staffing, scheduling, implementing more efficient processes and building a more Christ-like atmosphere, along with setting up better and more professional avenues of communication between administration, teachers and parents. We thank these two incredible women as well as countless volunteers, and Matt, for all their hard work and efforts!

*Ecclesiastes 4:12 Where one alone may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken.*