

# MESSENGER

VOLUME 6 NO.1

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA PARISH NEWSLETTER

FALL 2005

by Julie Larrivee

All St. Francis Borgia parishioners, along with family, friends and neighbors, are invited to celebrate with us at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 16 as the Marianne Huiras Memorial Organ is dedicated. A very special reception will follow the dedication ceremony.

The celebration of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs will offer a chance to hear and experience the elaborate range of the Schantz organ's incredible sounds.



The guest organist for the event will be John Behnke, D.Mus., professor of music at Concordia University in Mequon, who will open and close with a prelude and fugue by Bach and will share two of his own arrangements of the hymns "Come Christians Join to Sing" and "Now Praise the Lord."

Those attending will be encouraged to participate through singing. "The program also will engage all of the choirs - the St. Francis Borgia School children, the youth choir, the adult choir and the handbell choir," explains Lana Schumacher, director of liturgical music.

"Having worked with John during handbell conducting seminars, Chorister's Guild Festival and from attending his organ concerts at Concordia, I knew his sensitive concept of hymn playing was what St. Francis needed to dedicate our new organ. His humble nature, along with his creative musical abilities, will be appreciated by all in attendance at the dedication. It will be an honor for our choirs to have the opportunity to work with him," Lana remarks.

The organ is a gift to the parish from parishioner Ralph Huiras and his family in loving memory of his wife and their mother, Marianne, a former parish organist, was an accomplished musician

who truly loved music and enjoyed being able to share her gift with others.

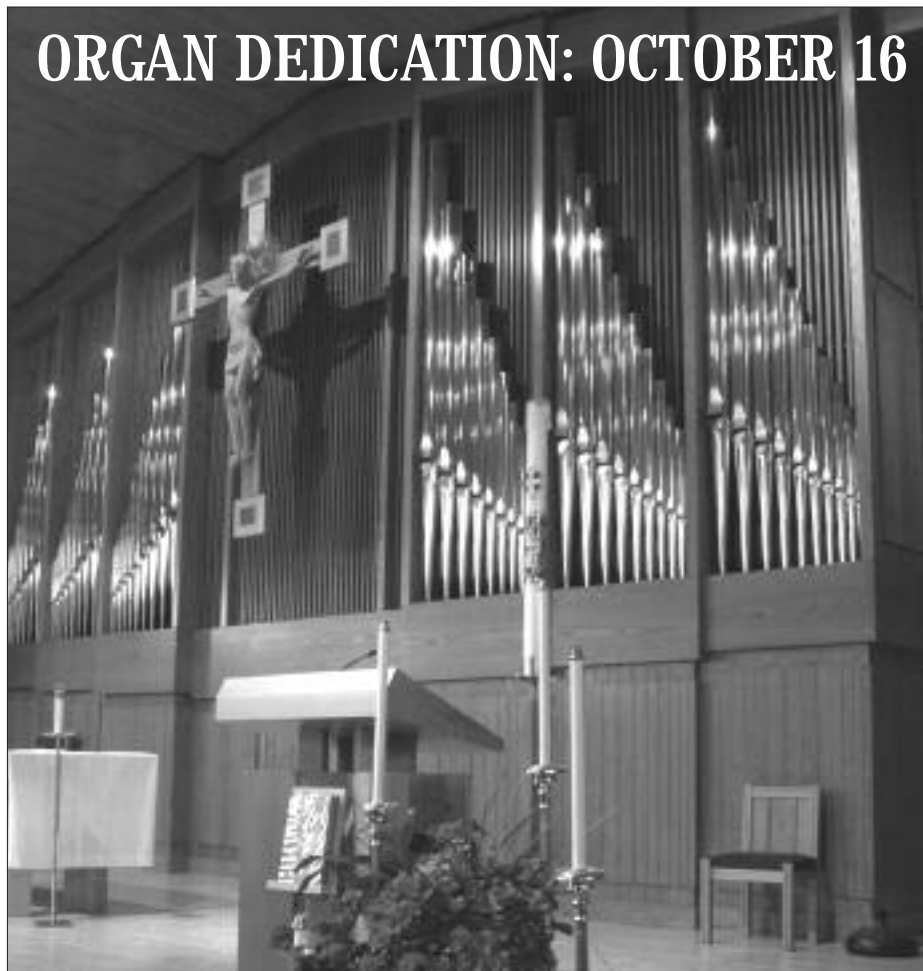
The Schantz organ consisting of 1,800 polished zinc pipes is housed in a lustrous red oak casing at the front of the sanctuary. The purchase and installation of the instrument, along with the sanctuary renovations, was a lengthy and involved process. But, now that it's complete, the organ adds a wonderful component to worship services.

"The human voice is the only instrument, if you will, that can play a note and a word at the same time," says Fr. Tom

Eichenberger, SFB pastor. "But the pipe organ is the only instrument that can imitate an orchestra and express the whole range and depth of human emotions with its sounds. Like the Psalms of David, a pipe organ expresses many deep human emotions."

Lana adds, "People see the massive façade of the organ and expect it to be too overbearing." But the variety of organ pipes offers the person playing so many options that allow production of just the right sounds. "It's exciting to be able to play this instrument and incorporate it into our worship services. It's just phenomenal."

## ORGAN DEDICATION: OCTOBER 16



Fall