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September 24, 1997

RE: St. Thomas More Parish Network

Dear Neighbor and Fellow Parishioner:

You may or may not be aware that a new program called the Parish Network is being started at STM. I have volunteered to be the District Representative for this area of Munster, and as you can see from my address I live within a few blocks of you. I call this a "program" for lack of a better word. It is essentially an attempt to instill in our church that small town feeling that many of us enjoyed long ago- where we actually recognized and knew someone at mass on Sunday.

From time to time I will be dropping off some information about upcoming activities going on at the church of which you may not be aware. I was going to stop by with the information included in this envelope, but I thought I would introduce myself first by means of this letter. We realize that there may be someone who does not want to be contacted, and we respect that sentiment. I am enclosing a card with my name and phone number. If you absolutely do not want me to stop at your home, please call my number and let me know or leave a message on my answering machine. Please state your name and address clearly so I will know who is calling. I hope, however, that I will not receive such a call from you.

What does all of this mean? I have enclosed a little brochure on the Network that may answer this question. For me, it means that about once a month I will walk the neighborhood and stop by the homes of about 30 of my neighbors to drop off a bulletin about some upcoming activity. I do not plan to stay long or even come in since I, too, am very busy. By way of introduction, I will tell you that my husband, John, and I have three children, Sara, Johnny and Matt. Sara and Johnny are both studying at Purdue now (Sara in biology and John in engineering.) Matt, who is a junior at Munster High, spends most of his time playing ice hockey for Munster and is on a traveling hockey team. I am an attorney in Chicago and my husband is an engineer. We own an environmental and geotechnical engineering firm (Weaver Boos Consultants, Inc.) and a subsidiary construction testing and inspection services company. We have offices on Michigan Ave. in Chicago; Griffith, Indiana and Albuquerque, New Mexico. As you can imagine, we have a very busy lifestyle. Nevertheless, I believe that this is an important program and I am willing to devote some of my time to making it work.

Next week I plan to walk the neighborhood and drop off a flier about the STM Ministries Fair that is coming up on Saturday, October 18 and Sunday, October 19. For those of you (like me) who are unfamiliar with the various organizations in the church, this should give you a chance to learn more about them and how you can participate, if you want to. Included with this letter is a flier on Millennium 2000. Some of you may have already filled out this form at mass. If you have not, and think you would be interested in participating, the program begins next week. Feel free to call me if you still want to sign up. I will try to get you in touch with the appropriate person.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you. If any of you would like to join me on my walk, just let me know. I will be happy for the company.

Very truly yours,

Linda Weaver

Linda A Weaver



## **Becoming a Parish of Neighbors**

## Nebuchielowa

## • A St. Thomas More Parish Network Publication •





Dear Fellow Parishioner,

It's been a long time coming, but it's finally here. Here is our first edition of the *Network at Work*. It's a little lean this time around. We're hoping you can help us out on that. Please send us your thoughts on the network. If you've been helped by having the network and you have a success story to share, please send it to us c/o Anne Spellman 1109 Treadway Road, Munster.

We have been working out more of the details and we're looking for a year of successful communication. We have established a schedule for distribution of information throughout the year, so you can expect to see your representative again in early June, early September and mid-November. These dates coincide with the Parish calendar of events and your representative will be letting you know of upcoming events at St. Thomas More. Until then, we hope you will join us this Lenten season to celebrate God's gifts to us and hope you enjoy the many blessings of Spring.

In His Spirit,

The Parish Network

Core Committee



- We had a very successful 1st visit. Thank you for being so courteous to our representatives. Our representatives came back to our first meeting very upbeat and enthusiastic about their visits with their neighbors. Some areas are even beginning discussions of block parties. Success!
- The Millennium organizers were grateful to the network for helping connect some of our Network families to the Millennium gatherings.
- We were very happy to report that in our very first visit, one of our representatives reported one of their neighbor's need for a reliable housekeeper. One was recommended through a district representative.