



Holy Rosary Church  
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Edmonds, Washington

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Pastor

Ray Biersbach  
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Sue Venable  
School Principal

John Russell  
Stewardship  
Gifts & Blessings Editor

Mary Hupf  
Faith Formation  
Preschool and Elementary

Eileen Niven  
Outreach

Susan Olmos  
Music

Tony Vasinda  
Youth Ministry

Photographers  
Norbert Hertl  
John Russell

(Continued from page 1)

If they get a decent job, the chances are enhanced, he says.

That's why he started Conviction Careers, a non-profit group that has two full-time employees, three part-time and three volunteers who focus on preparing former convicts to enter the workforce.

"We try to change their attitudes and make them feel like they are human," Chuck said.

The family trust spends about \$200,000 a year on the project, operating out of one of his sons' dealerships in Lynnwood. That's about 95 percent of the funding for the project over the last 3 1/2 years of operations, he said.

Two sons, a daughter, the organization's director and a former Snohomish County Superior Court judge are on the governing board. Chuck himself is not, but that doesn't stop him from showing up two or three days a week.

A businessman through and through, Chuck wants to make sure the operation runs on a tight financial course. "I try to make sure it runs like a business," Chuck said.

Referrals come to Conviction Careers through a variety of means. Those include various state agencies and the prison, community colleges and even the television program Washington's Most Wanted.

The organization has had about 1,100 referrals, but half don't even come in. Of those who do, the odds are they become employed and don't re-offend, Chuck said.

Conviction Careers tells clients about how to act and dress, and they tell them what to expect during a job interview. There are mock interviews, video-taped so the client can see what he or she looks like and how best to handle questions about the conviction.

The staff will help clients write a resume and a half dozen donated computers allow clients to go online for a job search. The group will even shell out some cash for appropriate clothing or bus fare.

It's up to the client to want employment enough to search on his or her own.

"If they get a job, it just means they are serious about straightening out their lives," Chuck said. "We don't get a job for them. We show them how to compete and win; how to compete and get a job. They don't know how."

Many come from broken homes or have had little or no structure in their lives.

So far, the group is ministering only to former felons from Snohomish County, partly because of restrictions put on released prisoners traveling outside the county. Chuck hopes to move staff to another son's dealership in King County a couple days a week in the near future.

**"I'm not good at piety, I'm too old to study so I prefer a little action." - Chuck Olson**

Why does Chuck focus on former felons? He has trouble articulating that. His wife, Peggy, says he is just concerned about people coming out of prison. Chuck said his motivation stems somewhat from the Cursillo movement in

which he was involved years ago,

The movement teaches piety, study and action, Chuck said.

"I'm not good at piety, I'm too old to study so I prefer a little action," he added.

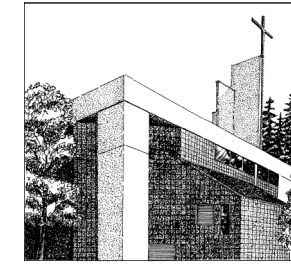
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**Annual Catholic Appeal begins April 27!**

**Holy Rosary Parish**  
PO Box 206  
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# GIFTS & BLESSINGS

## Ministry to the Forgotten

By Jim Haley

For nearly a decade and a half, Chuck Olson trekked once a month to the Monroe prison complex to visit inmates who were nearing the ends of their sentences.

That was the genesis of a more recent program that would start Chuck and several of his grown children on a mission to give released prisoners a fighting chance to become productive citizens with gainful employment.

Chuck, an automobile dealer who retired in 2005, is using a family trust fund to finance a program that has helped more than 600 former inmates find good jobs after their sentences.

"It makes you feel good when you see somebody get a job," Chuck said.

The nearly 84-year-old former auto dealer was a guest speaker March 27 to the Holy Rosary Social Justice Committee. He came to explain his program to more than 30 people attending the meeting.

A second parishioner, Dolly Haakenson, also talked about the prison quilting project she started at the prison complex. (See "Quilting in Monroe", G&B January 2013 or on holyrosaryedmonds.org.)

Chuck, a Roman Catholic convert, got his start with prisons after a guest speaker at Holy Rosary talked about a program encouraging people to visit inmates. Chuck is convinced that inmates who have regular contact with people who are on the outside have a much better chance of straightening out their lives when they are released.

**Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one for these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' - Matthew 25: 39-40**

(Continued on page 4)

## OUR MISSION

*Led by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist, Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Parish strives to be a welcoming servant community.*

*We celebrate the goodness of God's unconditional love through worship, education and service.*

*The Pastoral Council  
October 17, 2007*

### Upcoming Events

Holy Thursday Mass	April 17, 7:30 p.m.
Passion of the Lord, Good Friday	April 18, 3:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil	April 19, 7:30 p.m.
Easter Masses	April 20, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
Trivia Night (for Adults)	Saturday, May 3, 7:00 p.m. in the Pastoral Center
KofC Wine Dinner	Saturday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. in the Pastoral Center
8th Grade Graduation, HRS	Sunday, June 8, 12:30 p.m. in the Church

# ID Theft: the IRS Collects Evidence

by John Russell

In the wake of the tax fraud resulting from the theft of social security numbers of employees and volunteers in the Archdiocese, the IRS had seven agents at the gathering on April 3 in the Church, interviewing victims and collecting Identity Theft Victim Interview forms. They were also interested in other evidence, such as refund checks or prepaid debit cards not due to the taxpayers who received them or IRS letters or bank inquiries to individuals who do not reside at the address where they were received.

These will all be used as evidence in the pursuit and prosecution of the individuals who committed this theft, according to IRS Special Agent Kenneth Hines.

Dennis O’Leary, Executive Director of the Chancery, opened the meeting by saying he was sorry for the situation parishioners face, expressing his deep sorrow for the pain, anger and fear that the theft had caused. He said that the first reports seemed like isolated incidents but it soon turned into a tsunami, overwhelming the Archdiocesan staff.



O’Leary reported that the Archdiocese is putting substantial information on the Archdiocese website to help those affected respond. He noted that as a precaution, background checks have temporarily been suspended, and they are working with a potential new vendor that does not use social security numbers. The first five digits of social security numbers currently in the database have been eliminated. A DVD for those who cannot attend these meetings is being prepared. The Archdiocese has also engaged a forensic investigator to evaluate the security of data on Archdiocesan systems.

O’Leary introduced Aravind Swaminathan, a former Federal prosecutor specializing in cyber and white collar fraud, who indicated they that are currently determining what, when, why, and how many.

In response to questions, O’Leary said that there have been around 2000 tax frauds reported so far, and he encouraged those affected who have not yet sent a report to [taxinformation@seattlearch.org](mailto:taxinformation@seattlearch.org) to do so. The Archdiocese will pay for credit monitoring of victims and is currently researching firms, hoping to have the service available in a week or two. As a precaution, CICS, the background check subcontractor, has isolated the database which contains social security numbers.

Hines noted that identity security is like the security of a house. There is always a tradeoff between accessibility and security. If there are no windows or doors, it is most secure. When you add a door, it gives access to bad guys. When you add windows, it gives more access. Giving out your social security number or shopping or banking online makes your ID less secure. Hines said that street gangs have taken up identity theft, noting that when identity theft exploded in Tampa, street crime plummeted. The gang members were working computers instead of the streets.

If you are a current or former employee or volunteer with the Archdiocese of Seattle and needed to give the Archdiocese your social security number for a background check, you need to consider yourself a potential victim. Go to [www.seattlearchdiocese.org](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org).

## Candidates and Catechumens with the RCIA team at the Snohomish Deanery Rite of Election, March 17 at Holy Rosary

Photo by Norbert Hertl



# Funeral Ministry: Because It’s a Good Thing

By Jim Haley

They minister to the grieving through actions, food, flowers and labor partly because they know that they might someday be in the receiving position after suffering the loss of a loved one.

They also do it because it is kind, caring and right.

Several score Holy Rosary people are frequently practicing the parish mission statement of being “a welcoming servant community” in the funeral-reception ministry. It’s a choreographed ballet that starts with one phone call and winds up with a flurry of activity ending in a funeral service and a buffet-style luncheon. Each funeral involves dozens of individuals, all acting to ease the minds of the grieving.

Nearly 130 people are on a calling list to provide food, said coordinator Rosalie Gizinski. In addition, there are four team leaders, each with a dozen or more people who set up and clean up. The food preparers and on-call teams are rotated so as not to overly burden the volunteers.

In addition, Carolyn Schmidt and former team leader Liz Thorning sometimes work with funeral directors to set things up in the church, reserve pews for grieving families, make sure the day’s readings are in place, put out tissue boxes and even pass out memorial cards at the service. “I’m just there to make sure everything goes according to Hoyle,” Liz said. It is a job that outreach coordinator and parish staff member Eileen Niven does when she is available.

Eileen or Parish Secretary Colleen Lemeshko make the first call after family members consult with Fr. Ken Haydock, and request an after-service reception in the Pastoral Center. The call, including the time of the service and number of guests expected, goes to one of the alternating team leaders. The team leader then enlists some of her volunteers to set things up and do the post-reception cleaning.

The leader figures what food items she will need and how much of each. They usually ask for Caesar salad kits, pasta or potato salads, deviled eggs, fruit salads and the like, Rosalee said. Cookies or brownies or bars, homemade if possible, also are on the request list. Team leaders also purchase meats, cheese, bread, punch and coffee for the luncheon. The team leader then calls Rosalie to relate the time of service, when the leader will be in the kitchen to receive the food and the amount needed. The leaders like to have the food items fairly early the day of the funeral so they can make a dash to the store if they feel they don’t have enough.

Rosalie said she took over the job in early 2012 from Mary Hovander, who handled that task for 15 or more years. Team leaders include Shirley Serwold, Linda Zahnow, Nancy Fleck and Ann Arnold.

It’s a big but rewarding task. “People are really thankful for the funeral reception. It’s one less thing they need to worry about while they are grieving,” Ann said. “We are thankful that we are able to help in a small way.”

Besides reception chores, parishioners are sometimes called to be lectors or Eucharistic ministers at the funeral. There also are times when just a small crowd is expected and parishioners are called in for the service to add their prayers for the departed and grieving.

“It is a sad time but it makes you feel good to help (mourners) out when they are at their lowest,” Eileen said. “There really are a lot of good-hearted people around here. It’s really an important part of what we do.”

Liz quit the team leadership role after an illness made it difficult for her to be on her feet all the time. It was a volunteer job that used to give her immense satisfaction. “It made me feel so gratified how welcoming the people were,” Liz said. “It gave them time to be with people who knew who the deceased was. It took a burden off their shoulders. I did it because it made me feel good. It made me feel worthwhile, and I have a lot of compassion for these people.”

Fr. Haydock agrees. “It is a compassionate response to these people in their time of need,” the pastor said. “When you have hundreds for a funeral, the last thing that you want to do is invite them back to your home.” It is a community outreach, he added, “whether they bake cookies, make a salad or whatever it is a great way to support grieving families.”



From left: Lynn Galiger, Shirley Serwold, Alice Terrell, Karen Purpur, Rosemary McKenny, and Gail Murphy

Photo by John Russell