

Tobin Tribune

A Special Collector's Edition

St. Thomas Episcopal Parish, Coral Gables, Florida

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SAINT THOMAS

FATHER ROGER TOBIN, A LOOK BACK AT 23 YEARS OF DEDICATED MINISTRY & SERVICE



Fr. Roger Tobin, Rector St. Thomas Episcopal Parish

Musings on a Ministry

By ANN ROSE

“Arguably” some of the liveliest, most creative, and very best preaching in South Florida over the past 23 years has been taking place six days a week at St. Thomas. Picture Fr. Tobin delivering a sermon on Sunday or a homily to St. Thomas students on a weekday. When we think of him preaching, we see him up in the chancel – probably not in the pulpit because he rarely preached from the pulpit, but walking around in front of the altar rail (clearly with too much energy to stand still), pulling props out from behind the pulpit, setting them up on the altar rail, maybe coming down into the congregation with microphone in hand to hear responses from children.

Think of the word pictures he painted to make the point in his sermons – “second to none!” He might talk about a homerun by his beloved Minnesota Twins the day before, the hospitality in the Magic Kingdom and the Kingdom of God, the two tiny Tobin dogs that tinkled on his shoe when he scolded them, being in a “snit” in the Publix checkout line, or his high school wrestling matches that his father never missed. Now add the physical symbols he used to enhance the mental images – plastic balls batted out into the pews, Aflac ducks in a line squawking, Snickers bars tossed to raised hands, the glow-in-the-dark cross he had as a child, a torch and a helium balloon meeting at the altar (something about flames and wind and the power of the Holy Spirit in that sermon).

His gift for focusing a spiritual truth through a memorable image from everyday life was thoroughly developed when he arrived at St. Thomas as a young priest in the summer of 1986, and it just got better and better. But turning our memories back to the summer of 1986....

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Fr. Tobin’s Early Years at St. Thomas

He came in like gang-busters, set on building up ministries and activities that would create a deep sense of family at the parish. By the end of the first fall season, 40 people were meeting every Wednesday night at the rectory for small-group fellowship of singing – accompanied by Fr. Tobin on guitar – and Bible study. By the end of the first year, Marriage Enrichment was meeting monthly with pot luck dinners, programs, and an annual retreat – incredibly attracting couples from the church and school from their 20s to their 70s. He trusted lay people with major leadership responsibility, and brought women leaders on board at a time when many Episcopal churches were trying to figure out whether women could handle those equal roles or not. Within three years his senior warden was a woman, and the first woman’s voice was heard reading the lessons from the lectern. Following quickly were girl acolytes, then more women chalice bearers and lay readers. The stage was set for the first woman priest at St. Thomas to be his associate several years later. By Christmas of that first year, the congregation was singing his favorite carol, “In the Bleak Mid Winter,” with gusto, hoping to make our new Minnesota priest love being in the balmy weather of South Florida at Christmas time.

One of the charges of the vestry

to Fr. Tobin when he was called to St. Thomas was to undertake a building program since the school facility, constructed in the ‘50s, no longer passed accreditation requirements. Early in his tenure, he launched the Feel the Power capital campaign to fund a new building for classrooms, offices, and the library/media center. Logistics around demolishing the old classroom building and constructing the new classroom facility were a nightmare. For two years, the entire school moved to “Trailer City,” where portables connected by wood decking covered the parking lot. In anticipation that the construction chaos would cause people to stop attending church, Fr. Tobin, with major assistance from Jan, divided up the entire church membership into “Shepherd Groups,” each with a Shepherd to keep track of appointed sheep. On April 26, 1992, the new classroom building was consecrated by Bishop Schofield, and church and school moved into the glorious new space. In August, four months later, Hurricane Andrew hit, but Fr. Tobin and the Building Committee had wisely chosen to go beyond the required hurricane code for windows at that time, and not one window in the new building blew out.

After Hurricane Andrew

Hurricane Andrew left major damage south of North Kendall Drive, and for St. Thomas, it meant that roughly 50% of the entire parish, including 6 of the 12 vestry members, had bad home and property damage. Fr. Tobin’s response to Andrew was energetic and pro-active. He telephoned a priest in Charleston, SC, to learn how their church had dealt with the days, weeks, and months after Hurricane Hugo several years earlier, and then he and Jan started driving to find his parishioners. The first Sunday after the hurricane, with no electricity between North Kendall Drive and Homestead, in the hot sanctuary with mildew starting to grow where rain had poured in on the organ, he held services and people came to give thanks that their families – if not their property – had

survived. After church they picked up batteries and canned goods from supply trucks that clergy friends of Fr. Tobin’s had sent down. While Sunday services didn’t miss a beat, all night meetings and activities for the fall had to be cancelled because the National Guard curfew of 7 p.m. was mandated for the dark, windowless area from North Kendall Drive south.

Meetings were cancelled, but ministry was increased. Fr. Tobin mobilized the Shepherds, already in place, to check on their sheep and report needs. He scheduled a series of 6-hour training sessions on Saturdays to train Stephen Ministers to be able to provide emotional support to people in the parish, both church and school people. And he called the first fulltime youth minister to come to St. Thomas. With all the rental houses and hotel rooms filled with people who had moved out of their homes, the new youth minister had to live in the little house in the middle of the parking lot that had been the church office. Three hundred school cars drove within 15 feet of the front door every weekday morning, but the youth ministry flourished, serving not only teens but their parents and St. Thomas School students.

Stewardship season in October arrived, and the hurricane devastation in Miami had hardly been touched. Fr. Tobin announced that instead of a stewardship drive, he would assign each vestry member a list of families to find – not easy with street signs and traffic lights still down. The message they were to bring was, “St. Thomas wants to see how you are doing. I’ll leave a pledge card, but we’re not having a stewardship drive this year. We just want to know if you’re okay.” It

was a rewarding time to be on the vestry. Wonderful connections were made, and pledges actually did come in. By the end of the year, Fr. Tobin was known in broader Episcopal circles as a clergy expert in dealing with the aftermath of natural disaster.

Mid-‘90s to 2000

By the mid-‘90s, things were essentially back to normal and Fr. Tobin was ready to tackle Phase 2 of the building program. His motto has long been, “Every setback is a set-up for a come-back,” (everyone should hear 420 children’s voices shouting that with him in chapel), and he was leading St. Thomas in the come-back. Eventually Rantz Hall was to be demolished and replaced – it had served the parish well for 50 years, was worn out, and had a kitchen that

no longer passed safety codes.

But before that demolition, the columbarium had to be relocated. The plan for that included a 70-foot extension of the west end of the sanctuary to add a small chapel with additional seating space and with columbarium niches in the walls. With the sanctuary extended, a loft was built over the chapel for the choir and school music



classes. The organ, which had gotten soaked by the hurricane, was restored and moved to the new loft. The sanctuary itself, used daily by the school and weekly by the church, was refurbished in the process.

Capital campaigns, zoning hearings, permits, construction equipment, inspections, more zoning hearings – so many energy-draining demands are made on the leadership of an institution undertaking a major building pro-

gram. But Fr. Tobin’s view of bricks and mortar was always about ministry, education, and people, and he seemed to get the adrenalin necessary to carry on with his signature word, “enthusiasm.” During that time he created pilgrimage experiences for parishioners. In ‘94 he took 30 people from St. Thomas to the Holy Land, joining up with his former bishop and a group from Pittsburgh. In ‘96 he took a group to the “Mother Country” on a tour of English cathedrals, and in ‘99 he took a group on the Mediterranean tour, “In the Footsteps of Paul.” Back in Miami, he used well-earned sabbatical time to have mid-week days off during the period of a year and completed his master’s degree in counseling at Barry University, with a dual major in marriage and family and mental health counseling – a course of study with obvious benefits to the parish.

Since 2000....

In the years just after 2000, Phase 3 of the building program was going full swing, with the Realizing the Covenant campaign, the demolition of Rantz Hall, and the construction of the new building – and Fr. Tobin was right in the middle of it. Things he had longed for were about to happen – a parish hall so beautiful that people could have wedding receptions on campus; a stage so well-equipped that the school could keep all its performances on campus; the Bedell/ECW Room designed to be either one or two rooms, for multi-use by everyone; the Adrienne Propeck Youth Center with ample space for a kitchen, ping pong table, and large-screen TV – comfortable for 40-50 teenagers to gather in on school nights and weekends, and for St. Thomas School students to use on weekdays; Art, Music, and Environmental Science rooms; small, cozy rooms for counseling and the Jarrell Library. On Valentine’s Day of 2005, 420 school children with red balloons moved into the new building.

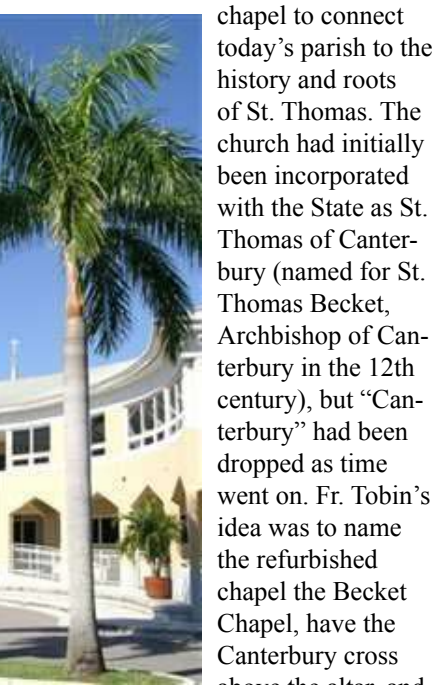
During these years the music program at the school and church – always excellent – became more and more accomplished. At school, in addition to all grade levels participating in choral music, 4th and 5th grade

students began to receive instruction on instruments, and students with superior vocal talent sang in the Chapel Choir. In the summers of 2003, 2005, and 2007, the St. Thomas Church Choir was invited to sing services in cathedrals first in England, then in Italy and Ireland. Fr. Tobin accompanied the choir, vested, and participated in the services where our choir sang – cathedrals as notable as Canterbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, York Minster, St. Paul’s Cathedral, St. Mark’s Basilica (Venice), St. Peter’s (Rome), Christ Church (Dublin), and many more. People from the parish were invited to tag along and be choir groupies, so the opportunities for pilgrimage continued – now with our rector and very own choir. Back at home, the Eisenhart Concert Series offered six seasons of outstanding music performed by local, national, and international groups. When the American Boychoir or the Vienna Choir Boys performed for a night concert, they also performed for the children in the school. One St. Thomas School student even joined the American Boychoir after hearing them during the school day in our sanctuary and auditioning before they left.



Fr. Tobin’s ongoing mantra was about unifying the parish with the church and school working and living together in a place of learning, worship, and ministry. In the last three years, the unified St. Thomas Endowment and the unified Outreach Project to Holy Comforter that is the most ambitious outreach ever undertaken by the parish have become wonderful examples of that unity, alongside the dual use of every space in every building.

With the new building fully occupied and new columbariums both inside the church and outside in a gated garden area, the last thing Fr. Tobin wanted for the completion of Phase 3 was the renovation of what had always been the “Little Chapel,” used during construction for a school music room and storage. Long a holy place to so many people – for small services, baptisms, funerals, weddings, private prayer – it needed refurbishing for use as a chapel again. Fr. Tobin wanted the chapel to connect today’s parish to the history and roots of St. Thomas. The church had initially been incorporated with the State as St. Thomas of Canterbury (named for St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury in the 12th century), but “Canterbury” had been dropped as time went on. Fr. Tobin’s idea was to name the refurbished chapel the Becket Chapel, have the Canterbury cross above the altar, and work Canterbury



crosses into the new altar rail. And so it was – after all the construction during the 23 years of Fr. Tobin’s ministry at St. Thomas to replace worn-out buildings, he brought us back to our roots as a parish with the Becket Chapel.

Phase 3 completed the building program that began shortly after Fr. Tobin arrived, but as his retirement date approached, he was walking the grounds with the landscape architects of the next project, explaining the history and soul of St. Thomas – the places and spaces that are special to the life of the parish. And he was sharing his vision of what needed to be done as the next steps, to make the grounds reflect that St. Thomas is “attractive and alive, at the same time secure and permanent.”

And Pulsing Under All the Accomplishments....

The big accomplishments of 23 years are exciting to remember – successful building programs that produced glorious new buildings, a school that just kept getting better, recovery from a natural disaster, pilgrimages to far-away places, a music program that has earned international fame, a master’s degree in counseling, a long list of new Episcopal clergy from St. Thomas to add to the National Church, and on and on. And under all the exciting accomplishments throbbed the day-to-day pastoral care and counseling in Fr. Tobin’s office, his hospital bedside presence, his walk through tragic times with individuals and families, and his performance of the life events of the community – baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals.

The things he taught the children in chapel every morning and the congregation in the pews on Sundays had to do with the spiritual values of forgiveness, compassion, welcome, social justice, and inclusion. He taught about coming back from a setback – not alone but with the help of God and the Christian community. In a parish that had good cause to celebrate much, he also addressed the struggles of brokenness, teaching that we might be “broken vessels or cracked pots,” but that God’s light can shine through us still. He taught that in our woundedness, God calls us to be “wounded healers.”

An image I’ll never forget from years ago was Fr. Tobin distributing the host with bandaged hands, after a crystal bowl of ice had shattered in his hands at a midweek fellowship at the rectory – he believed we were all called to be wounded healers. In hard times, he taught that “God brings life where no life seems possible.” In good times, he celebrated and enjoyed and laughed and played – with “enthusiasm.” He retires leaving a legacy of buildings we can see, memories we can cherish, and truths that will live in our hearts.

FACULTY & ADMINISTRATION

Make Way for Ducklings

BY BARBARA McPHILLIPS

First Grade Teacher

One of my favorite memories of Father Tobin is recalling how much he loves one of my favorite books, “Make Way for Ducklings.” He even read the book to my first grade class one morning. One day, a real live “Make Way for Ducklings” occurred, filmed live on TV! Real ducklings being lead through a town to safety. Imagine my excitement when I thought, “Father Tobin will love this! He has to see it!” I joyfully sent it on to him, and yes, he loved it! He REALLY loved it! This is but one of the times Father Tobin has brought joy not only to my life, but to all of the children in my class.

Embracing Diversity

BY ELIZABETH SCHAUL AND FRAN ROSEN

In the years we have been teaching at St. Thomas Episcopal Parish School, it has been our distinct pleasure to work with you. You have inspired us to be the best teachers we can be. Although we are of a different faith, you found a way to make us feel at home and welcome during chapel services. As opposed to highlighting our differences, you recognize our commonality and praise it. The way you embraced the diversity at St. Thomas was truly admirable. You have shown us so much love over the years. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and will miss you dearly. Thank you for all that you have done to make St. Thomas such a special place for our children to grow.

Fondly,
Elizabeth Schaul and Fran Rosen

The man I’ll remember

BY KITTY FINNERAN

- Has a loving wife at his side
- Father of two young boys who have grown into manhood
- Best teacher of Greco-roman wrestling
- Competitive spirit
- Flexible beyond the belief
- Can adapt quickly to any situation
- Always has the right words to use
- Awful puns!
- Adorable puppies
- Listened when there was sadness in my life
- Celebrated when there was joy in my life
- Spent many early mornings discussing things

- Gave graduation blessings to more than 1,000 students as they left for middle school
- Morning chats
- Farewell, go with peace and love

M & M’s and Fr. Tobin

BY MRS. BROSCHE

One of the most memorable life lessons that Fr. Tobin has shared with us is his M&M story. He says that people are a lot like M&M’s! They are all different colors on the outside but inside they are all the same!!!



From Catholic to Episcopalian

BY JOAN SANZ

Believe it or not, I was already at the school as a pre-school mom before Father Tobin was hired. When he came, we were all overwhelmed by this energetic young priest with the booming voice. His son Jonathan and my son Kevin became best friends immediately, and this led to many years of watching various St. Thomas (and eventually Palmer Trinity) events from the sidelines, audiences and playing fields. Jonathan spent several summer vacations with us in North Carolina, and I felt that he was a part of our family...and by extension, so were Roger, Jan and Nathaniel.

Since we are here to eulogize Roger, I will not be mentioning certain PTS/St. Andrews baseball games which I attended with him!!!! Come to think about it, I will not mention ANY athletic events which I attended with him!

Roger was my rock during some very difficult times: the long illnesses and eventual deaths of my parents, and the tragic death of my 4 year old niece who suffered from leukemia. His kindness and accessibility is something that I always will remember. Unless you have suffered some tragedy in your life and have dealt with it with Roger’s help, you will have no idea of the depths of compassion and love

that are in this man.

I always joked with Roger that I was a closet Episcopalian (I was born and raised a Catholic), but would never convert while my father was alive. He never pressured me, always saying that he was not out to steal other shepard’s sheep. When I joyfully became an Episcopalian last fall (after my dad died), I died of embarrassment kneeling at the railing when he told the congregation that I was one of his longest ‘projects’ - it only took 23 years to get me to convert!

St. Thomas has been blessed to have his leadership over the years. I was there for the Field of Power, Step for the Future and Realizing the Covenant capital campaigns. There are only a few old timers like me that truly realize how much has been accomplished both in physical plant and in community as a result of the hard work of this man, and the sacrifices he and his family have made for St. Thomas.

I will always love Roger, Jan, Nathaniel and Jonathan. They have enriched my life, and it has been an honor and a privilege to be a part, however small, of theirs.

God Bless You, Roger.
With love,
Joan Sanz

More Irish Than The Irish!

BY MARY KLEVAN

I knew I liked father Tobin from the first minute I met him. I had recently moved to Miami from Ireland and still hadn’t quite settled in. But father Tobin made me feel right at home by speaking to me in a better Irish accent than my own! Go raibh mile maith agat, Athair Tobin! (A thousand thanks, father Tobin!)

Weathering a storm

BY CRISTINA PLASENCIA

Nobody knows when a storm will hit or how hard. It is as true in nature as well as in our lives. No matter how you prepare for the worst, it is never enough. My mother died almost 3 years ago. It was a devastating loss in many ways. It was unexpected and premature. It came at a time when she was finally able to live without any financial burdens allowing her to enjoy a little extravagance. And leaving me without a mother that I still need. In spite of the fact that I choose to separate my professional life from my personal one, Father Tobin’s advice was sought. He gave me a pillar to lean on and held my hand as he guided me through the grieving process. He accommodated my wishes and I was able to have a lovely service in tribute of my mother’s life. For being the guiding light through my storm, I will be eternally grateful to Father Tobin.

Dyslexic Student Changes Lives of All Around Him

BY SANDY WALTER

There was once a lad who was sad,
His reading was really bad,
He read backward, upward, sideways too,
Trying to abide by what he was supposed to do.

“Alas!” said God in despair,
“This situation just isn’t fair!
This young man is honest, bright, creative, and humorous, too,
I will make him my gift to you.”
So Roger Tobin went on his way.
Touching lives day by day.

God empowered Roger to teach us to pray,
He taught us to care, he taught us to play,
Seeing the beauty in each new day.

Now God has another plan for Roger to do
Unfortunately it doesn’t include me and you.
We thank God for this gift He gave
As we support Roger in his new journey with our blessings and praise.

“Enthusiasm!”

— Roger Tobin

A Direct Line to Heaven

BY LISA CRAWFORD

I once told Father Tobin there must surely be a direct line to heaven over the spot in his office where he fervently prays with parishioners: the carpet worn thin where feet firmly planted stood so many times, under hands joined in solidarity with the Holy Spirit, as prayers of joy, grief, thanksgiving, and deep intercession were lifted to God. For me, it has been a spot of hope, a spot of confession and penitence, a spot of unity with Christ and my priest. I’ve wept tears of great sadness and immeasurable joy there. And it is most recently the place where Father Tobin has blessed my call to ministry as I continue to open my heart to God’s will in serving Him in his Church. Thank you, Roger, for your great presence in that special spot, both in the Rector’s Office and in our hearts, forever touched by your loving kindness.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elvis Rocks St. Thomas Fashion Show Spring 2000

BY JAMES, TIFFANY, KAYLEE, RYAN

& AINSLEY GRIPPANDO

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL—A packed ballroom was whipped into a frenzy today by the surprise return of Elvis Presley. The king of rock and roll was the unexpected highpoint of a fashion show in which dozens of St. Thomas students took to the runway.

“He’s lost some of his moves,” said Tiffany Grippando, “but Elvis is definitely not dead.”

“Hey, isn’t that the same guy who blessed our golden retriever?” said three-year-old Kaylee.

“I do not know that man,” said Jan Tobin, denying for the third time that it was actually her husband, the Reverend Roger Tobin, in costume.

All went smoothly until Elvis returned to his dressing room and reportedly became angry, refusing to eat the jelly donuts ordered for him.

“He wanted Snickers,” said Ryan, speaking through his binky.

Two Weddings and a Funeral (plus some Baptisms along the way)

BY CHERYL & REUBEN TRANE

It was Roger Tobin’s booming voice carrying words of love that first captivated us two decades ago – it is the same voice and the same message that has kept us coming back week after week to the parish family at St. Thomas. He blessed us at our marriage on the banks of Card Sound (also blessed by God with a rainbow-accented sunset) and was there by our side a short month later with the passing of Alice Conrad, Cheryl’s mother. Roger’s oratory skills are only surpassed by his ministering ones – he is always available and always there, in good times and in bad. In the wake of Andrew’s destruction, he took the time to pre-nuptial counsel our daughter, Heidi, before officiating at her wedding. The offshoot? Two baptisms of her daughters, Coco and Sloane (both students at St. Thomas Parish School)! Roger has, over the years, forged a strong, on-going bond among St. Thomas, our family and the St. Thomas extended family. We will truly miss him for selfish reasons and wish him God Speed.

God in Coral Gables

BY VIVIAN MORE CORTINAS

I’ve heard that all the honest truth telling in the world is done by children. My son best described the impact that Father Tobin had in our lives the day Father Tobin came to our home for a small foyer dinner. When Father Tobin arrived Alejandro, who was three years old at the time, ran to open the door, looked out, and came right back saying “Mom, God is at the door!”

It is hard to write one hundred words about a person that deserves a book. Since 2002, the year we joined St. Thomas, Father Tobin has provided our family with unconditional, wholehearted support and he has been by our side every time we have needed him. I still remember a very sad Christmas morning when I called Jan because our dear brother in law Colin Fletcher (husband of Angela Cortinas) had passed away suddenly. Without hesitation, he left his family and spent Christmas with Angie at Doctors Hospital. This is something we will never forget and we will forever be grateful to Father Tobin for his compassion, self sacrifice, and above all; his humanity.

Father Tobin has been our priest, our counselor; our spiritual leader, our teacher, our friend and most importantly...God to our son. He will be forever in our hearts.

“Worry and fear don’t empty tomorrow of its burdens, but they do empty today of its joy. Worry and fear don’t empty tomorrow of its sadness, but they do empty today of its strength.”

— Roger Tobin

Leader and Visionary

BY JACKIE GONZALEZ TOUZET

I have been hearing rave reviews from my children and nephews for years, but I had never had the opportunity to spend much time with him.

In this- his last year at St. Thomas, I have been privileged to work with him on the Board and the Master Visioning Committee for the Parish (yes, Father Tobin you have trained me well!). At a time when most would be focused on their imminent departure, he was extremely generous of his time and a veritable treasure trove of knowledge. He said that he wanted everything we did to reflect on the quality and excellence of the parish. It is my hope that this final project we worked on together is something he will be proud of.

Thank you, Father Tobin for all the support and vision you have given St Thomas for so many years.

(On a personal note, thank you very much for that special note you wrote my son the day I missed his commendations. We will treasure this note and all the memories we have of you always).

“Every set back is a set up for a come back.”
— Roger Tobin

What It Means to Be a Winner

BY REV. KATHRYN CARROLL

St. Thomas is an important part of my children’s upbringing and we are grateful for Father Tobin’s role in the experience. The values we sought to instill at home were enthusiastically reinforced through morning chapel – the worship, the messages, the songs the prayers...and the joy that pervaded the gather each day. Even now, at the point where my children are adults or nearly so, Father Tobin’s legacy surfaces every now and then, when we talk about what it means to be a winner...doing your best! Thank you, Father Tobin, for always giving us your best. We will miss you.!

PARISHIONERS & DAY SCHOOL FAMILIES

SNICKERS...More Than Just a Candy Bar

BY THE ARIAS FAMILY — MICHAEL, MICHAEL SPENCER “MIKEY” AND MICHELLE BEAUCHAMP-ARIAS



Although we have only known Father Tobin for a few months, we have learned how much he loves SNICKERS! What’s not to love? Sweet on the outside and nutty on the inside. So it got us thinking, that Father Tobin can be described by SNICKERS...

Spiritual

Nurturing

Insightful

Compassionate

Knowledgeable

Enthusiastic

Reasoned

Supportive

In the short time we’ve come to know one another, you have touched our family. You will be missed by so many. We wish you every joy and happiness as you embark on next part of your “enthusiastic” journey.

God Is in the “Thin Space” at St. Thomas

BY ANN PLATT

“A ‘THIN SPACE.’ BETWEEN HEAVEN & EARTH. GOD IS NEAR.” These are words from Father Roger Tobin’s sermon at Evensong on All Soul’s Day November 1, 2009.

As Father Tobin spoke about the extraordinary “thin spaces” in the world, I felt my father, now dead almost thirty years, join us.

Thirty-three years after following my father’s

footsteps as a real estate broker I was doubting my career choice. At my home out of control cost chaos on a roof turned structural project and the challenging economy had wreaked financial havoc.

As my father joined us the gold lettering on the Bibles and prayer books appeared to gleam a brilliant gold. I sensed a dazzling light surround me and I knew all would be well. Peace.

Thank-you To Father Tobin.

Ash Wednesday Atrocity

BY ANNIE PUIG

Ash Wednesday, 2009

Ash Wednesday morning I decided to attend the 10 am service in the little chapel with my 20 month old son. A new member to St. Thomas Church, I was eager to make a good impression. I brought along the usual entertainment to keep Danny quiet; however all attempts failed and several times I stepped outside. On a third attempt to participate in the service, I gave my son cheerios, and moments later (of course the most quiet) a thousand cheerios scattered all over the floor. All eyes were upon me, now on all fours, as I frantically tried to pick them up. During Eucharist, Fr. Tobin looked at me and said, “its ok, this is a family church and we love that you are here.” The tears welled up in my eyes and I’ve been a participating member ever since. Ash Wednesday 2010 just won’t be the same.

Tobin Tosses Treats

BY DEE CAPPS

Among many memories of sermons by Roger Tobin are the memorable tosses into the congregation of goodies representing a message he was delivering. It helped to keep the message in mind and reminded us to carry out the message with action as we participated in the fun! Whether Snickers, M&M’s, bubble toys, or the like, the fun we had with Roger had a spiritual message that we could manifest in our lives and in the world. In addition to carrying away the treats, our spirits were nourished for growth and for carrying the message to others.

A Wedding in Pensacola

BY JENNIFER ANDERSON HOFFMAN

Father Roger Tobin presided over the wedding of Jennifer Anderson and Chris Hoffman on May 5, 2005 on Pensacola Beach, Florida. Father Tobin arrived on May 4 and was transported from the airport to the rehearsal by the bride’s brother. After the rehearsal, he attended the rehearsal dinner and provided a lovely blessing for all in attendance. The

wedding was held at the home of the bride’s parents and the weather was perfect as was the ceremony. The happy couple was quoted as saying “It means the world to us that Father Tobin would travel all this way to perform our wedding ceremony. He has been such an important part of our lives and we are happy he could be here for this.”

Just What I Needed to Hear

BY MORGAN SMITH

Ever since I joined Saint Thomas in the early 1990s, Father Tobin has instinctively known to say just what I needed to hear at any particular moment. From his sermons to quick comments in passing, whether he is speaking only to me or to many, he literally always seems to say exactly what I need to hear. Father Tobin inspires me to live a deliberately prayerful life. He has played a huge role in my journey of faith. When Marshall and I got married in 2002, Father Tobin was so wonderful to counsel us and offer truly profound wisdom—and again, he said just what we both needed to hear. And I will never forget him baptizing our children and explaining so well the rationale behind the liturgy, which we needed to hear and understand. Saying thank you to Father Tobin seems so small compared to the enormity of his influence in my life, but it is extremely heartfelt: THANK YOU, Father Tobin, for always saying just what I needed to hear.

God speed

BY PAM NORMANDIA

Roger, you came to St. Thomas at the exact moment that Sam, and our marriage, needed you. You jumped right in to get acclimated to what is available in Miami and got us on the right track. Your counseling was also a big part of the result. You were there for me when we buried my Mother and many other times when I needed support or just someone to vent or talk to. Thank you for all of the wonderful things you did for the parish while you were here and all of the things that grew as a result of your direction and hard work. I am sorry to see you leave but I wish you the very best in your “retirement”. God speed. With love, Pam

Footprints Will Remain

BY DAVID AND DIANA PROPECK

How does a family thank a priest and his family for touching our lives for 23 years. Years filled with extreme joy but also with extreme sadness. I was on the search committee that called Roger and his family. Our community was in distress and this bril-

liant preacher with an eager young family revitalized us and took us on a journey to change us physically (St. Thomas looks totally different) and spiritually. Personally Roger and Jan worked with the Propeck family through sad times of sickness and death, and joyous moments of graduations and ordinations.

Roger and Jan you will leave but your footprints will remain.

Cobb Family Reflections

My first real conversation with father Tobin was prior to a movie night on the playing field (which probably bothered the neighbors), and I remember thinking how genuine and approachable he was.

— **Chris Cobb**

I remember when father Tobin brought a kick ball to chapel and threw it in the air saying, “what goes up... Must come down”. — **Fred Cobb**

I remember father Tobin running up and down the aisles asking kids for the names of all the 12 disciples, If they made a mistake, we had to start over! — **Nick Cobb**.

What most impressed me about father Tobin was how he relates to the kids. It is this ability which sparked an interest in the kids to read the bible and learn more about religion. We will miss you father Tobin, and we wish you the very best, wherever your paths may lead! — **Kolleen Cobb**

Hope

BY THE PAWLEY FAMILY, CAROL DOBBS, CLAYTON & DEVON

It is with heartfelt sorrow that I realize all great things come to an end. Change is always around the corner and in the end all we have are our memories. Memories that evolve around family, friends and church. I plainly remember when “The Tobin family” came to Miami and became part of our Saint Thomas Community. I decided to make them feel welcome and invited the children to come and play at our home...never knowing what impact Roger would have on our lives. My children attended the Parish school and we went to weekly church, etc. It was not until the tragic death of my husband that I got to experience the compassion and loving attitude that he possesses.

When life is at its darkest moment you reach for anything within your grasp to help your family survive. It is within that that time that Roger showed us a quiet strength but most of all hope. Our family, we’ll be forever grateful for the hope and gentle strength through his kindness and wisdom that was

generously given in a time of need.

We wish you both well on your new journey beyond these walls and know that the love of the Parish is behind you, one family at a time.

“Yes, it’s a conspiracy!”
— Roger Tobin

A Wrong Turn

BY CATHY BOHN

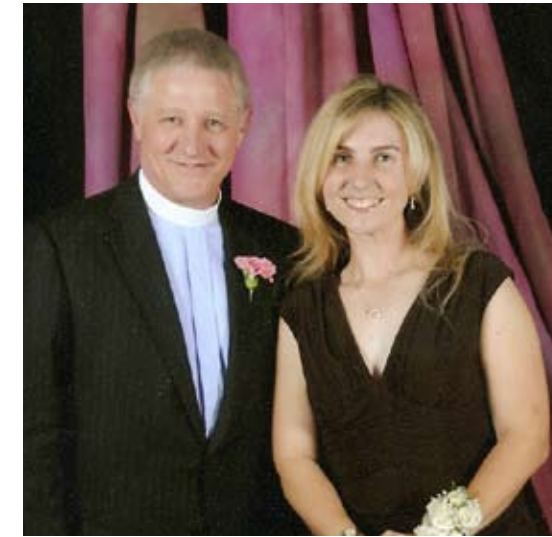
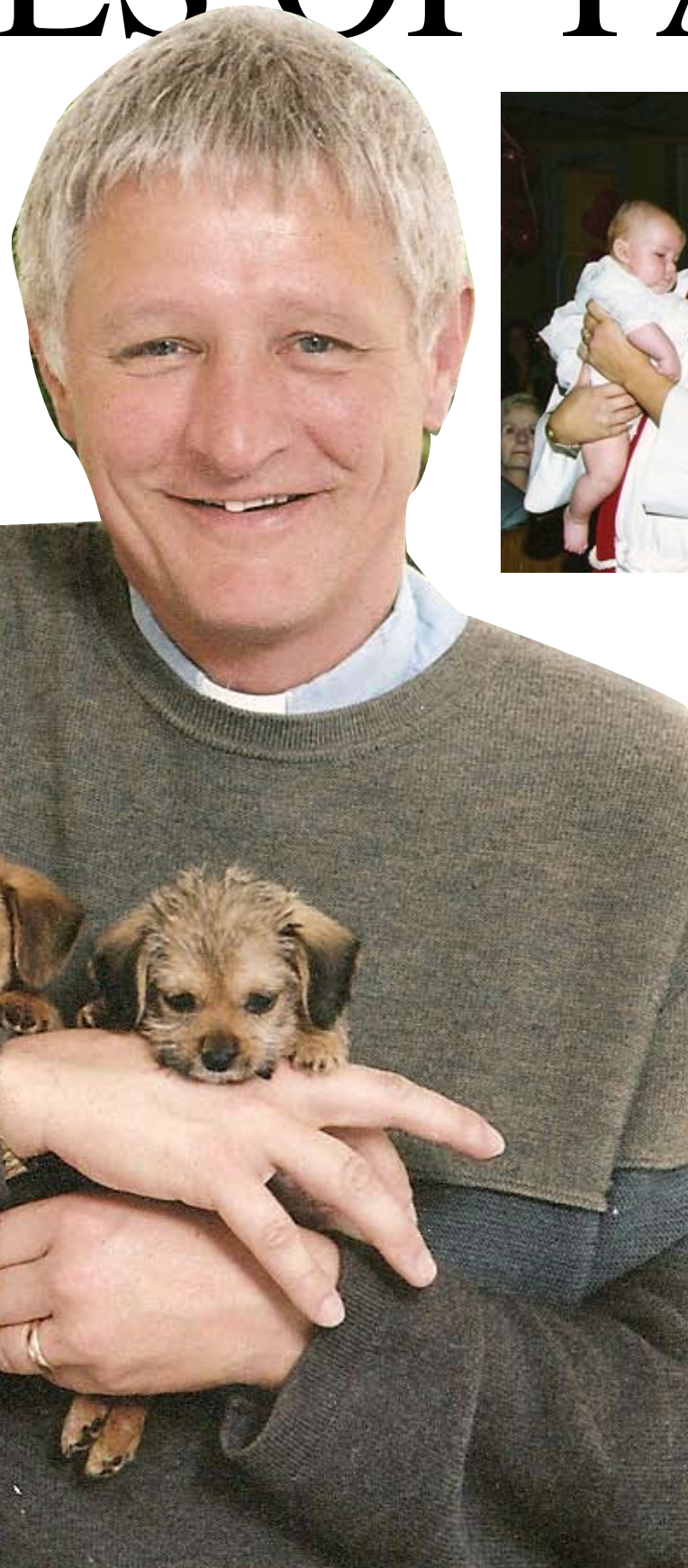
Burdines Department Store transferred me to Miami back in the mid 1980s. I did not have any family or friends in town when I arrived. I was an Episcopalian and decided that I needed to find an Episcopal church to help me feel a little more settled. I went to St. Phillips in Coral Gables because it was right down the street from where I was living. However, I was not feeling very motivated by the Sunday sermons that I was hearing there each week. One day, I took a wrong turn (trying to find an address) and drove by St Thomas. I decided to try Sunday service at St. Thomas. I heard Father Tobin’s enthusiastic sermon and was hooked. Father Tobin’s sermons were so uplifting and helped me to always try to focus on what was really important in my life. My husband and I officially joined St. Thomas in the early 1990s. Father Tobin baptized both of my children, Hank and Medley.

Father Tobin has touched my life in so many ways. I pray a lot. When I was going through some very difficult times...I would say my prayers, go to church...and Father Tobin seemed to be giving me the guidance that I needed...through his sermons! He will always hold a very special, blessed place in my heart. My family and I will greatly miss Father Tobin. However, I wish him much happiness and peace in his life!

Many Thanks and Much Love,
Cathy Bohn

P.S. Just a few memories...Father Tobin’s long hair back in the 1980s...how he would say “never wake a sleeping baby”-when he was baptizing a sleeping baby (like my son)...my father loves to attend Easter services at St. Thomas-he says that we have the most beautiful Easter service that he has ever attended- the music and the service bring a tear to his eye!

THE LIFE & TIMES OF FATHER TOBIN



New Book Deal : The Autobiography of Roger Tobin; Going Prague Available in June of 2010.

A wonderful book for your coffee table. Includes 18x12 photos of the many travels of Roger and his lovely wife Jan as they trek across the globe spreading the word of God. They leave Tobinisms in each village so as to spread the Good News of living each day to the fullest, Carpe diem (not his own), Enthuuuuusiasm, Kindness matters, Your presense not your presents, A set back is a set up for a comeback and many more!

The Gutierrez publishing company.
Will, Lucy, Jimmy and Annie

Swept Up by Your Enthusiasm

BY THE MAGUIRE FAMILY

Our wonderful introduction to St Thomas began with meeting you and becoming swept up by your “enthusiasm.” Your advice to get involved in the church was taken to heart and we have thoroughly enjoyed our association with St Thomas. You made our daughter Margot’s Baptism very special and our family will always remember it. We want to wish you and your family the best of luck and success in all your future endeavors. We will miss you.

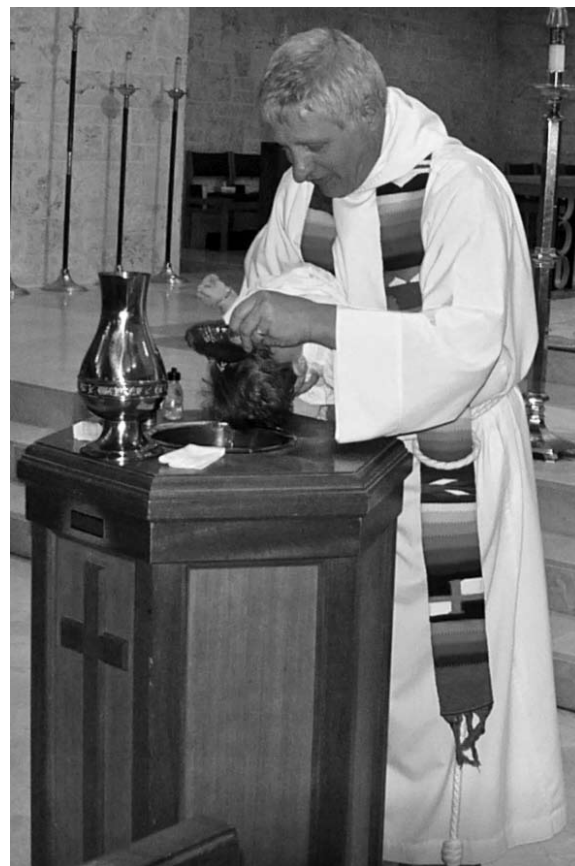
The Maguire Family

Holy Water After the Storm

BY IKE, YELINE, NICOLE AND MICHELLE OJALA

When we were planning to have our first baby and had just moved, we both felt compelled to find a new church to join. After trying many others, we came to St. Thomas and heard father’s Tobin sermon. We were very impressed with his ENTHUSIASM (clearly living it, not just saying it) and with how fun and relatable his words were. We decided to join St. Thomas that day, all because of Father Tobin. Father Tobin baptized our first daughter Nicole and in summer of 2005 we were ready for him to baptize our second daughter Michelle. We picked a date and had family coming from Finland, Venezuela and Maryland. 2005, of course, was the year of numerous storms and, sure enough, Katrina came to visit and knocked out power in our area. Father Tobin reassured us that he would go anywhere we needed him to, in order to get Michelle baptized that day.

Sure enough, when the day came, power was still out and the weather was hot, but Father Tobin opened the main sanctuary for just our family and performed the most beautiful baptism ceremony for Michelle, all without air conditioning or lights... After the baptism, Yeline’s parents—who are devout Catholics and had not been too happy about their daughter becoming Episcopalian—told us how impressed they were with Father Tobin and how they now understood why we joined St. Thomas. Father Tobin, we love you and will miss you, and feel very fortunate to have you as our friend. We know you’ll continue to touch a lot of other peoples life’s as you have ours, God bless you and your wonderful family!



One hundred words from the Vieths about Roger Tobin

BY MARK VIETH

Enthusiastic! Atta boy, Roger boy! Keep your eye on the ball! Love. Tireless. A set back is a set up for a come back. I just want to be a sheep. I’m in sales, not management. Family. Being there at the highs and lows. We build buildings we don’t need with money we don’t have for the people who aren’t here. He is Alive! If you’re not the lead dog, your

view never changes. Deep prayer plus faith, hope, and love equals peace. No matter what. Wrestling. Vikings. Lift High the Cross! Births, deaths, baptisms, sickness, joy, School Chapel, Peace.

Tobin Secret Unveiled

BY THE CRISER FAMILY

Just like Father Christmas, it has been discovered that Father Tobin has an army of miniature helpers at Saint Thomas. Affectionately referred to as the St. Thomas Tobettes, this group ENTHUSIASMATICALLY works to bring the spirit of St. Thomas to everyone around them all year long. Look carefully, they bear a striking similarity to a certain special priest.

Date: April 2008 “Auction Item - Enjoy being Father Tobin for a day”. This day was the highlight of Ann Marshall’s 5th grade year at St. Thomas Episcopal School!

Love to Roger and Jan.
Marshall, Kimberly and Anne Marshall Criser

Big Ears

BY CAROLINE BRUMBAUGH FOR THE BRUMBAUGH FAMILY

The first time I met Fr. Tobin, I was struck that he actually listened to what was being said. It was easy to tell this because he asked questions, waited for a response and followed up with more questions. Through the years, as the Brumbaugh family has navigated the rapids of daily life, teenagers, parents’ deaths, and illness, the listening ears and sympathetic caring have continued to be there. Follow-up phone calls have encouraged us and informed us. We will miss those “big ears” but know that he will give the same gift to others as new ministry unfolds.

“I gotta have more cowbell!”

— Roger Tobin

VESTRY & PARISH STAFF

Contagious Enthusiasm

BY BRUCE BROCKHOUSE

My fondest memory of Father Tobin centers on Morning Chapel after all Roger’s enthusiasm is contagious! Our son Taylor while in Kindergarten, wearing a cape was delivering a sermon to a myriad of stuffed animals I asked Taylor what he was doing, he stated he was doing Father Tobin’s Job!

True Devotion, Compassion and Enthusiasm

BY DANETTE BROCKHOUSE

For the past twenty three years you have renewed our faith, nourished our spirit, and brought us to new heights we never thought possible. You have shown the entire St. Thomas community true devotion, compassion and enthusiasm! Your presence among us shall never be forgotten. As you go forward in your new ministry, we wish you all things good, we pray for your continued good health, and we ask you to keep us in your thoughts and in your prayers, as you shall remain in ours.

With Love & Gratitude,
Danette, Taylor and Erin Brockhouse

Christ’s Flock

BY MEG KERR-COCHRAN

One of my most lasting memories of Father Tobin is the effect he has on little children at baptisms. This can be a noisy and unsettling experience for any child, and many babies protest loudly after the shock of being taken from their mother’s arms and having an impromptu bath. At the end of the ritual, Father Tobin always introduces the “newest member of Christ’s flock” to the congregation and carries the child down the aisle as we applaud enthusiastically. Without exception, every little one calms down in his arms and is soon smiling blissfully as he blesses them and recites the beautiful and familiar words, “may you grow in grace as you grow in age”. Thank you Father Tobin for the grace you have shown and the grace you have shared.

— Meg Kerr-Cochran, Vestry Chancellor and mother of Kaelie (11) and Kat (9)

He Had Us at Amen

BY PETER, NIKKI, P.J. AND LILLI SUAREZ

About 4 years ago, we came to St. Thomas looking for a school. After our first church service with Father Tobin, we knew we found a place we could call home. He had us at “Amen”! He touched our lives and put our family onto a new course closer to God. There can be no greater gift and for this we are eternally grateful.

Forever in our hearts,
The Suarez Family

“I’m just a simple country priest.”

— Roger Tobin

Meeting Father Tobin

BY TIM BIRRITTELLA

After our first visit to St. Thomas (July 2004), I thought I’d never return. We bolted out of church as fast as possible only to find Fr. Tobin standing at the end of the breezeway. We tried to zip past him while he was talking to other parishioners to no avail. He stopped us and asked if we are new at St. Thomas. I replied “yes” (hoping to get away quickly); though, it was a lie since we lived in Pinecrest for 5 years. Fr. Tobin continued by asking “How long have you lived in the area? About a year?” Again, I responded “yes!” At this point, Meredith was no longer standing next to me since I was lying to a priest. Something I don’t recommend. Fr. Tobin concluded by saying “I hope to see you here next week.” And I responded “Absolutely,” knowing I would never return.

Throughout the week, I keep thinking about Fr. Tobin and how welcome he made us feel. We went back the following Sunday and Fr. Tobin came up to us before the service began to welcome us back. I had never felt this welcome in Church before.

Shortly after our daughter was born (August 2004), we joined St. Thomas and attended the Newcomer’s Orientation, where Fr. Tobin asked us the following: “(1) What brought us to the Church?, (2) What keeps us at the Church; (3) Explain a God-like moment in our lives?” When it was my turn to share, I began in reverse. For me, a God-like moment was seeing my daughter being born through the extraordinary help of a wonderful surrogate, who gave us the ultimate gift – a child! It was this child, Emma, who brought us to the Church, as I wanted

her to grow up with a spiritual understanding that I could not provide. Finally, what keeps me at the Church? That was easy – it’s Fr. Tobin! After sharing, Meredith said “Tell him the rest.” I knew what he meant, but didn’t want to continue. Meredith said “Tell him about the first day you met him.” Talk about being thrown under the bus! Well, I proceeded to tell Fr. Tobin about the lies I told him on that first day we met in the breezeway. Of course, everyone was hysterical, including Fr. Tobin who said “You don’t have to worry about me. You have to worry about him – as he pointed to heaven!” I told him that I had that covered and we all had a great laugh.

While we’re going to miss Fr. Tobin terribly, it’s because of him that we are here and that we have made many wonderful friends. As part of the Vestry, I know we have a tough road ahead, but I’m confident we’ll make the right choices to continue Fr. Tobin’s legacy. And I promise, as God is my witness, that I won’t lie to the new Rector!

Good luck in your future endeavors! We hope you enjoy this new chapter in your life. You deserve it!

With much admiration,
Tim Birrittella (with Meredith & Emma)

Our Way to St. Thomas

BY MARY LOU SHAD

Tom and I started attending church the week after Andrew. Every street, every neighborhood was littered with everything from vegetation to yard furniture and parts of houses. We made our way to St Thomas and attended the 11:30 AM service We were warmly greeted by Fr. Tobin. From that day on he never forget who we were and continues to be supportive of everything we do at St Thomas.

— Tom and Mary Lou Shad and Nila Arroyo

Faith and Enthusiasm

BY JULI NEWMAN

“It’s faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living.”

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

Twenty years ago we joined the church at the recommendation of my father in law because of the “YOUNG AND ENTHUSIASTIC” rector named Father Tobin! Twenty years later he is still “young” at heart and undoubtedly “enthusiastic! My favorite Father Tobism is “Every setback is a set up for a comeback”. Father Tobin was always there for our personal family “setbacks” and our “comebacks”, for which we are so thankful! Many of his poignant and personal sermons will remain in my heart forever. Thank you Father Tobin for your faith and your enthusiasm. You have truly touched our lives!

We wish you all the best

Roger, we'll miss your insightful and relevant sermons.

— Becky, Jim, Kristopher and Kyle Karousatos

You Are the Voice

**BY TRACY & GILBERT LORENZO
(WILLIAM 13 AND OLIVIA 11)**

The first thing that sparked our interest to start attending church at St. Thomas and then to join the church was Father Tobin's voice, yes his words too, but it all started with his voice. His voice carries words with passion, elegance and sincerity in his sermons, singing a hymn or just saying a friendly hello. I will remember with a smile knowing when Father Tobin sang a hymn. We always knew when Father Tobin added his voice to a hymn, besides that he had a microphone, but his voice would ring over many others with a passion that usually inspired me to sing more passionately too. Not only will we miss your voice, your words, but we will miss YOU!!!!

*“You can never
make up for not
being there.”*

— Roger Tobin

Discovering St. Thomas

BY THE MALLOY FAMILY

After moving from Bermuda 10 years ago, Kendra and John discovered St. Thomas while looking for a church that was a compromise between his Catholic upbringing and her Congregational upbringing. They attended their first Sunday morning service at St. Thomas with Roger and a wonderful sermon. They knew instantly after meeting Roger that they had found a new home! Now after three Christenings, two first communions, graduations, a house blessing and all of the wonderful services in between, they are so sad to see Father Tobin go, but they are so happy to see him grow!

Lot's of Love & Good Wishes

John, Kendra, Jax, Isabel, Liam & Karlee

The Gospel of Inclusion

BY FATHER MARIO MILIAN

“The Gospel of Inclusion,” a topic Fr. Tobin made his last adult education series at Saint Thomas, should not be solely related to Saint John's Gospel. Being inclusive is a theme Fr. Tobin preached and lived out during his 23+ years at Saint Thomas. Making people feel part of the family is something Fr. Tobin knows well how to do; and Julie and I were the recipients of that gift of inclusivity since the very first day we met Fr. Tobin in his office for an interview on April 25 of 2008. We pray that at Saint Thomas we may continue to preach the Good News of Inclusion, which is in my opinion one of the greatest legacies Fr. Tobin leaves with us at Saint Thomas. It is now the time for us to be the forbearers of the Good News of Inclusion.

A Man for All Seasons

BY THE PARKER FAMILY

When I arrived at my new home in Miami from Dallas in 1986, one of the first orders of business (according to my parents) was to find a new church home as well. Knowing that I had become a “slacker” in church terms, my parish in Texas - The Church of the Resurrection - was as concerned as my parents that I connect with a good Episcopal parish in Miami within the first 15 minutes of my moving here. Accordingly, they were nice enough to check out the Miami area for me, and determined that St. Thomas Episcopal Parish – led by a new young “hip” rector – might be just what my suspect spiritual life needed.

After considerable questioning from the family (and once I had run out of legitimate-sounding excuses) I rushed right out to visit St. Thomas several weeks after my arrival. The first person who welcomed me was a rather crazy looking older woman who ran around shaking everyone's hand exclaiming “Jesus loves you and so do I”.....not a good start for a kid who had the world by the tail and a nagging hangover from the night before. Strike 1.

The next person I met was a very bubbly and but rather unattractive woman who effectively asked me out on a date within the first 9 seconds of our conversation. I respectfully declined and moved on. Strike 2.

Then, I was greeted by Fr. Gammon Jarrell. He obviously wasn't the young “hip” priest I had heard about, but he was an engaging and genuine gentleman, and he immediately made me feel comfortable being a visitor to St. Thomas. OK I thought – I'll proceed into the church.

Once I was seated and the opening hymn was started by Paul Eisenhart and the Choir, I immedi-

ately became aware of a rogue singer belting out the lyrics in a rather overzealous fashion. Turning to see where the racket was coming from, I first laid eyes on the obviously young “hip” priest – Fr. Roger Tobin. Yes, there was the usual Episcopal pomp and circumstance, but Fr. Tobin injected the service with a feeling of energy and celebration. Like Fr. Jarrell, he was engaging, but in a different way. He brought the congregation into his sermon as if he was talking to each one of us individually. It was good....I decided I would return.

In the 23 years that have followed, I have had the honor of serving with Fr. Tobin in a number of capacities. He has a little bit of what I would call a Humongo Type-A personality, but that is what has helped propel the church forward over the years. One thing I can tell you with absolute certainty is that no matter how bad I screwed something up, he wouldn't hesitate to let me know. And, that was OK because we have always had great respect for each other and, in the end, he recognized that we were all doing the best we could with the tools that God gave us.

In those same 23 years, Roger performed the wedding ceremony for Rebecca and me, and baptized each of our children (Scott, Bailey, and Colleen). Scott and Bailey have had their First Communions at St. Thomas, Scott his Rite 13 Ceremony, and Fr. Tobin has shepherded all three in their daily spiritual growth in the parish school.

While Roger definitely has the gift of gab, he is also an incredible listener. And, he has been there for my family and for countless other St. Thomas families when just having someone's ear was the most important thing at the moment.

Roger has certainly been a very important part of the lives of the Parkers. We will miss his presence at St. Thomas, and as this chapter of his life draws to a close, we simply want to say “thank you” Roger for being the person you are, and for sharing the gifts that God gave you with the Parker Family and St. Thomas.

A True Friend

BY PAULA AND EDITH BROCKWAY

“A friend is one to whom one may pour out all contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away” –Arabian Proverb

Thank you for being that true friend.

Love you, PB

To my Padre,

I love you so!!! I thank God for blessing me with a Godfather like you...

Hugs and kisses, Edith

FATHER TOBIN'S FAVORITE THINGS

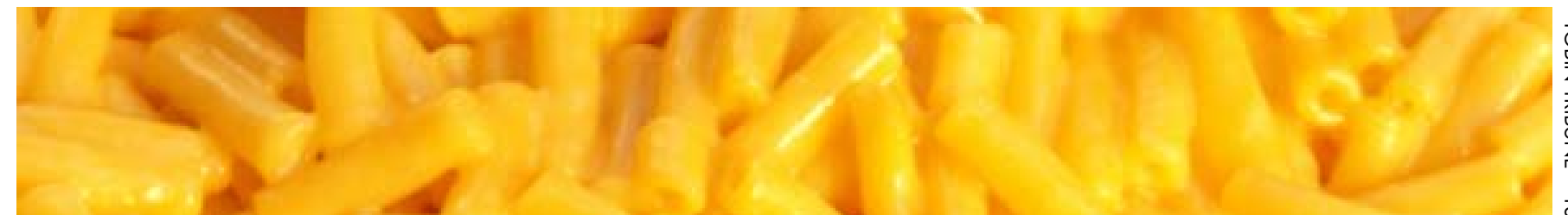


Two little puppies named Muffin and Brownie
Bright twinkling candles and songs shouted with glee
Kids dressed like angels, and spreading their wings
These are a few of his favorite things

Fresh chocolate snickers and macaroni n cheese
Comebacks and sleigh bells and singing with glee
Hail mary passes and Field kicker goal Kings
These are a few of his favorite things

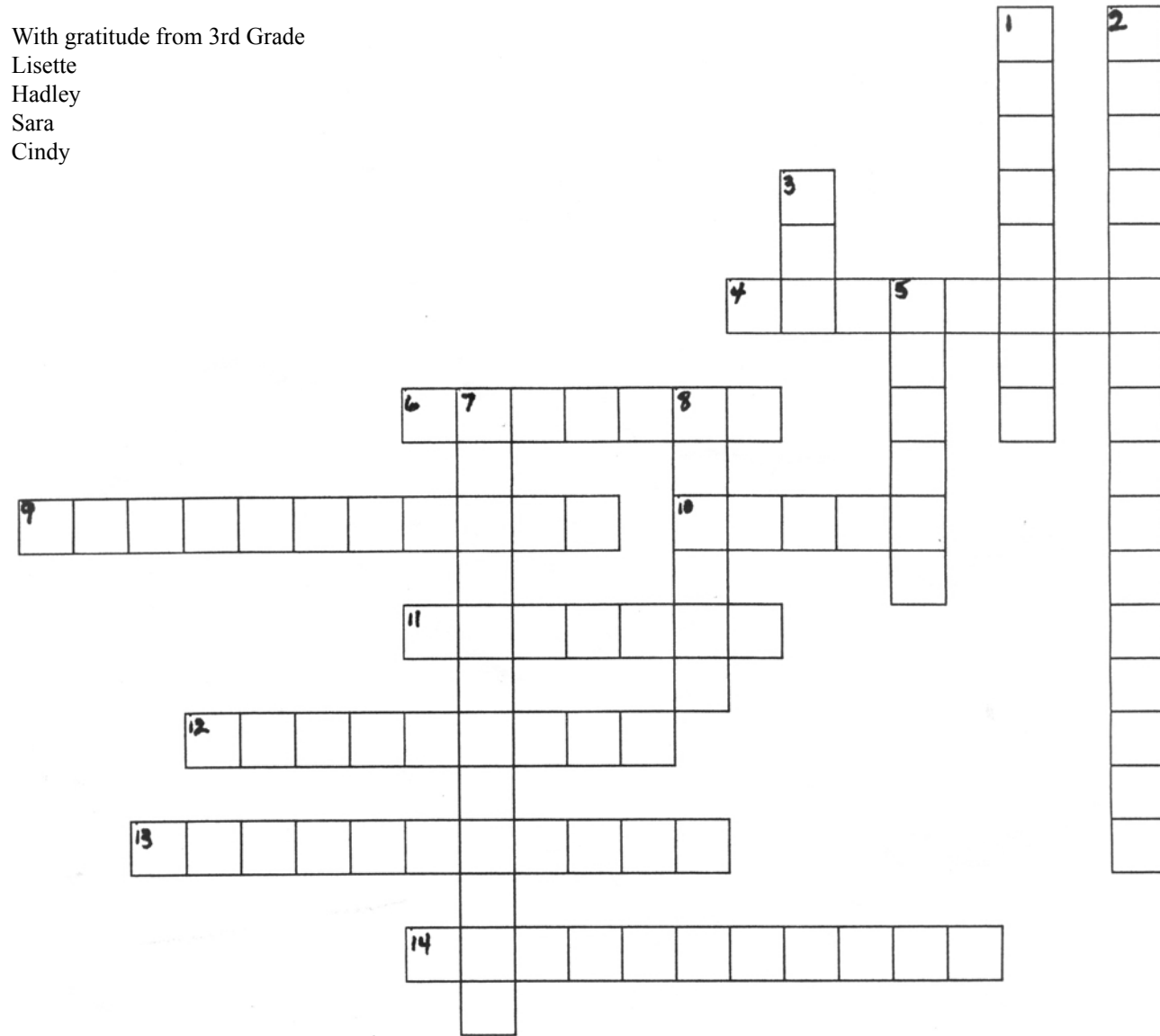
Sunday night football, and hail mary passes

When the Canes loose
When he hears snooze
When he's feeling sad
We simply remind him of his favorite things
And then he doesn't feel so bad



This Is Your Life Father Tobin

With gratitude from 3rd Grade
 Lisette
 Hadley
 Sara
 Cindy

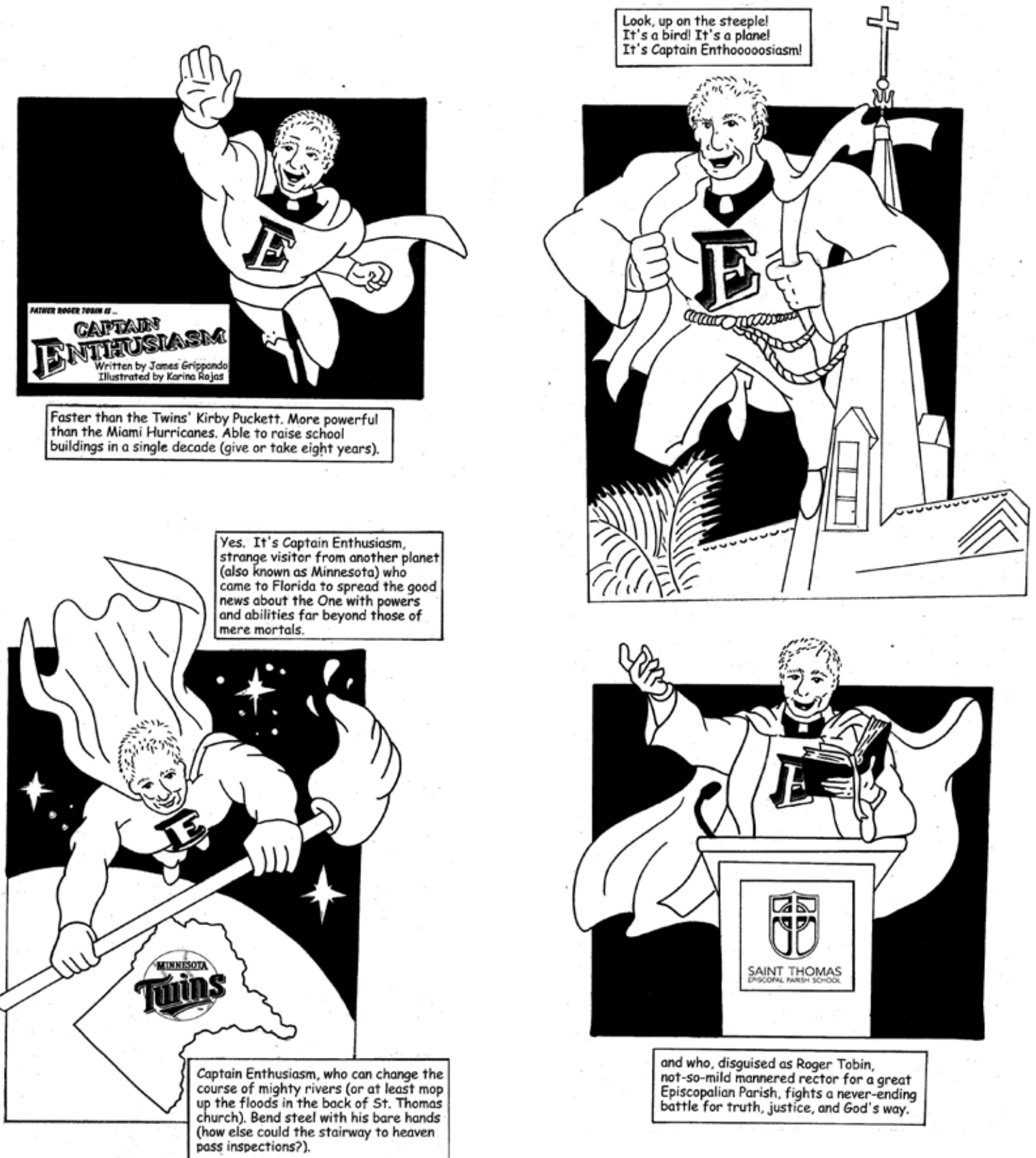


Across

- 4. What does think is the world's most perfect food?
- 6. Where is his new stomping ground?
- 9. Father Tobin's personality
- 10. What is the color of his collar and hair?
- 11. Muffin and Brownie
- 12. Make Way For...
- 13. Where is his summer vacation spot?
- 14. Where does he go for his birthday?

Down

- 1. Who was his friend from Pittsburgh who was also a TV star?
- 2. What is his favorite professional football team?
- 3. Who is a nurse, science teacher and better half?
- 5. What hot beverage helps him start his day?
- 7. What is his favorite word?
- 8. What are his sons' chosen professions?



Faster than the Twins' Kirby Puckett. More powerful than the Miami Hurricanes. Able to raise school buildings in a single decade (give or take eight years).

Yes. It's Captain Enthusiasm, strange visitor from another planet (also known as Minnesota) who came to Florida to spread the good news about the One with powers and abilities far beyond those of mere mortals.



Look, up on the steeple! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Captain Enthooooosiasm!

and who, disguised as Roger Tobin, not-so-mild mannered rector for a great Episcopalian Parish, fights a never-ending battle for truth, justice, and God's way.



40 Days

40 Days, the Contemporary Christian rock group, was born at St. Thomas Episcopal Parish in January 2008 to celebrate the Christian message of Life through worship and songs of inspiration. Father Tobin led the worship with his well known enthusiasm and energy for the contemporary ministry. He brought joy, laughter and fun to the services on Sunday nights; and of course our memories of his clapping and singing along will forever bring smiles to our faces. Father Tobin is love and a living example of Christ's love for us. Roger, you will always be a special part of 40 Days (as depicted in the group photo!) We will miss you, your ministry, and your leadership. Don't forget you promised to go on tour with us when we become famous!!!

Love in Christ, Peace and Blessings in your continued life journey,
40 Days-Carolyn, Bill, Larry, and Gus



"Five Stars—Destined to be a classic as only the wonderful world of Tobin can create!"

FINDING HOPE AND JOY THIS CHRISTMAS

It Really is Possible!

BY: THE REV. ROGER M. TOBIN



PRESENTED BY THE STEPS'
PARENTS ASSOCIATION

"Two thumbs up. So thought-provoking and inspiring, the whole family will enjoy. The Feel-Good Lecture of the Year!" - *Karen Wagshul*

"Two open-palms up. This lecture will leave you joyful and hopeful for the coming year!" - *Vivian More Cortinas*

"Father Tobin beautifully framed what should be important to us during the holidays (and throughout the year). We all need to take the time to enjoy the simple pleasures of life- it is not about what we have but the quality time we find for ourselves and our family. Since his lecture, I have personally made some wiser decisions!" - *Maria Williamson*

"Father Tobin was inspirational. Life is about the memories and the footprints you leave. Always keep this in mind and be flexible because even when you are trying to do good, you may be so focused on the goal that you forget that it is all about enjoying the journey." - *Carmen Irizarry*

THE CRITICS ARE DAVING ABOUT "FINDING HOPE AND JOY THIS CHRISTMAS"

Father Tobin is a licensed mental health counselor with dual specialties in marriage and family counseling, and mental health counseling. Do not miss his next lecture!