Persons in Relation. It takes a village to do anything.
Fr. Rick Malloy, S.J., Ph.D.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Christ calls us to community and the old adage applies: “It takes a village to raise a child.” Actually, it takes a village, i.e., a community, to do anything really transformative, worthwhile and real.

A family went out to dinner and the tiniest member of the family, three-year-old tiny Teresa, told the server she wanted a hamburger for dinner. As the server began to write down the order, Teresa’s mother cut in and said, “She’ll have a hot dog.” The server looked at tiny Teresa and asked, “How would you like your hamburger? Medium?” Teresa turned to her mother and said, “See. He knows I’m real.”

Now not to be too hard on overworked mothers, but we can all get so busy and distracted we fail to pay attention to one another. We can forget we are real. We can too easily slip into the incivility of our times. The freshmen learned all about that while reading Kent Weeks’ In Search of Civility this summer (Psst. I’ll buy pizza for any freshmen who can answer my ten questions on the book!). Weeks charges there is too much self absorption among college students and that student selfishness undermines the quality of life on too many campuses.

Here at Scranton we pride ourselves on being friendly and unselfish. Hundreds generously helped the freshmen move in. We were named as one of the top nine friendliest schools in the nation by the Huffington Post. One Scranton sophomore was quoted in the article: “This was easily the friendliest, warmest, most welcoming campus I visited. My experience here has strengthened this view.” (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/07/13/the-friendliest-colleges_n_896867.html#s306874&title=University_of_Scranton)

One thing that contributes to our building community is the realization that we are persons in relation. Without relationships, we aren’t real. The relationships we form, form us. Relationships grow into communities and social structures. God is a set of relations, i.e., the Trinity. At Mass, we gather to enter into our relationship with our relational God. Such relating makes us real. The Mass is a communal celebration, a sacrament that gives grace. We gather together to sing the Lord’s praises. That means we don’t stand in the back or in the vestibule (this is not a bus station). The great celebration of the Eucharist is set up as a call and response communication with the priest and the people engaging in structured, ritualized speech (The Lord be with you. And also with You: Lift up your hearts.Receive the gift. The reception of the gift of Eucharist signifies we desire to live according to the teachings of Jesus and the values of the Catholic faith.

None of us live perfectly, as Catholics or anything else. If you are looking for perfect people you are on the wrong planet, and certainly in the wrong church.

Many people misunderstand the consecrated host and see it as if it were “the cookie” at the end of the meal. If you go to someone’s home for dinner, you would be insulted if they said, “You can’t have dessert.” Actually the reception of communion in the Catholic Church is much more analogous to a wedding ring or a fraternity pin than it is to the cookie at the end of the meal. You are welcome to come to the frat party, but you don’t wear the fraternity pin unless you are a member of the fraternity. You can dine with a married couple, but you don’t ask to wear their wedding rings. Frat pins and wedding rings mean something precious and life transforming and very real. So does receiving Holy Communion, the body and blood of Christ, in the Catholic Church.

So, if you are Catholic, please come forward to receive. If you are not Catholic, please feel free to come forward and receive a blessing. Together we all called to love and create our world. As persons in relation we bless and pray for one another. Together, wherever two or three are gathered in his name, he is there in the midst of us. Joined in the mystery of Christ, we make each other real.
Pedro Arrupe, S.J.,
28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus,
Valencia, Spain, 1973

“Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ - for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce.”

Check out our new webpage at [www.scranton.edu/volunteers](http://www.scranton.edu/volunteers) for a complete list of current opportunities, agency information, upcoming events and more!

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the annual Volunteer and Service Fair September 13th from 11am-1pm in the Ballroom of DeNaples! Meet over 60 local non-profits and pick the placement you enjoy for your service work this semester!

**American Diabetes Association:** Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes. They need volunteers on Sunday, October 30th from 11:30am-4pm to help set up on the day of the event, decorate the haunted tents for the trick or treat trail. Contact Dawn Fernandez at dfernandez@diabetes.org or 888.342.2383 x4625

**American Lung Association:** Fight for Air Walk. Volunteers would do set up, refreshments, registration table, kids table with face painting and kiddie’s tattoos and juggling, take pictures, musicians, artists encouraged to interact with families, tear down of event. Saturday October 8 from 8am to 12pm at Nay Aug Park. Contact Donna Ray-Reifler at dreifler@lunginfo.org or call 570-823-2212

**Bread Basket of NEPA:** Food Pantry Volunteers – 2.5 hours weekly, monthly at mid-day and Non-Perishable Inventory Team Members – mid-day, once a month. Contact Sandra Roberts, 570-343-2324, T, W and Thursday. Please leave your name and number and a phone call will be returned to you.

**EFFORT:** University of Scranton’s Excessive Food for Others Recovery Team. Help pick up (Mon, Thurs evenings, Fri mornings) food from local vendors and deliver (Tues, Fri mornings) to local food pantries and shelters. Your own car or able to drive our service van (over 19 and certified only). Contact Kathleen Lavelle at lavellek3@scranton.edu or stop by The Community Outreach Office DeNaples 205B.

**Griffin Pond Animal Shelter:** Ongoing, dog walkers (must be 18 years old to walk dogs), Sunday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m., unlimited volunteers. Ongoing, cat food and cat litter drive organizers. Contact: Beverly Bright, 585-0516.

**Junior Achievement:** Taste of Success Gourmet Fundraiser, Thursday, October 6, 2011. Contact Barbara Vitosky 570-602-3600

**Komen for Cure** - help control traffic for race day, Saturday September 10 from 7:30am to 10:30am. Downtown Scranton. Contact Michele Tierney at mmtierney@comcast.net or call 570-881-7271

**Pet Therapy** - Join the Community Outreach Office for a day for the dogs on Wednesday September 28 (rain date Thursday) on the Dionne Green and Patio. Have participants sign waivers, set up the barriers, fill water bowls, assist dog handlers. 10 volunteers needed. 11am-1pm. Contact Ellen Judge to sign up at judgee2@scranton.edu.
Connections is a retreat created for first year students to help with the transition to college life. It begins on Friday at 4:30 pm and ends on Saturday evening. Transportation to and from our retreat center at Chapman Lake will be provided. Cost is $10.

Connections will be offered on the following dates:
October 7-8
October 21-22
October 28-29

To register for Connections come to the University Ministries Office located in the DeNaples Center, second floor at the beginning of the Fall Semester with $10 cash or on your Royal Card.

For more information contact Amy Hoegen in University Ministries at (570)941-5510 or hoegena2@scranton.edu.
**Weekly Collection**

This week’s collection will be donated to support relief efforts on the east coast as a result of Hurricane Irene. Thank you for your generosity!

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**Sunday Mass Presiders**

**Sunday, Sept. 4**
- 11:00 AM: Fr. Mohr, S.J.
- 7:00 PM: Fr. Sweeney, S.J.
- 9:30 PM: Fr. McKinney, S.J.

**Sunday, Sept. 11**
- 11:00 AM: No Liturgy at Madonna
- 7:00 PM: Fr. Malloy, S.J.
- 9:30 PM: Fr. Malloy, S.J.

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**Inauguration Week: A Celebration of Service**

Friday, Sept. 9, has been designated as a Celebration of Service Day for faculty, staff and students as part of the Inauguration of The University of Scranton’s 25th President, Reverend Kevin P. Quinn, S.J.

Come support Father Quinn in his desire for The University of Scranton to be a part of the Scranton community by joining us for a day of service beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate. A free T-shirt will be given to all participants at registration. Faculty and staff may request the use of mission leave time to cover their absences from work. Individual students, clubs and groups may use this volunteer time to fulfill service requirements. All those who participate are invited to a barbecue on the Dionne Campus Green at 6 p.m., where Father Quinn will speak.

For a full list of service opportunities and to register, visit the Celebration of Service website. You can view the entire schedule of Inauguration events at scranton.edu/inauguration-events.