

Marriage and Family Life

My husband and I came from large Catholic families in small farm communities that were suffering from the aftermath of the Great Depression. World War II was just around the corner.

The members of all these families worked hard, said their prayers, and had little money. It turned out to be great training for the adult world.

My husband's family was very devout, and when we got married, he asked that we say the morning prayers together, which we have done to this day.

Before we were married, we had both prayed for good spouses. God sent us spouses that were good for us. I remember a few times looking heavenward saying: "Lord, what were you thinking sending me this guy?" And he was in another room saying: "Lord, I think the bride I prayed for got delivered to the wrong address!" We needed God's grace. And we got it. We enjoyed raising a large family and will soon be married a half century.

Recently, one of our daughters was reminiscing about the morning ride to school. The school bus went right past our driveway, but the kids preferred riding with their dad, who drove past the school on the way to work. She said that after everyone piled into the station wagon and the last door was closed, dad began to pray and they prayed all the way to school. Genius! While you're talking to God, you can't start a fight.

She also recalled the year in the early 70s when we became so disheartened with the watered-down information being offered by the CCD classes, that we both quit teaching and withdrew the children. On CCD night, we gathered everyone together and taught from the Baltimore Catechism.

One huge gift was prayer groups. Not only did we benefit from praying together, but it supplied us with friends to rely on when any of us needed support.

Having come from a poor family, it was easy to be grateful for the life we had when the economy began to flourish. And we ALWAYS had good, holy priests who made great sacrifices to serve us. Thank You, Lord!

~A married parishioner couple

Consecrated Life

In 2013, Pope Francis declared that a Year of Consecrated Life be celebrated throughout the world from the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014, until the World Day of Consecrated Life, February 2, 2016.

We are all called to the consecrated life through our Baptism. Consecrated life, in the canonical sense defined by the Catholic Church, is a stable form of Christian living by those faithful who feel called to follow Jesus Christ in a more exacting way recognized by the Church.

There are different types of consecrated life in the church: Hermits, Consecrated Religious, and Sacred Lay Institutes. Everyone who follows the consecrated life tries to imitate Jesus in their life.

Vocations come from families. Certainly we received our vocation from our families. Vocation is a gift from God. Our families prayed for and encouraged us in our decision to serve the Lord. God calls us to any state of life and He gives us the grace to continue in the state of life. God is calling many of our young people to different vocations. In the modern world it is hard to hear God's call because we are too busy in so many other things and not enough time to hear God's call.

We belong to the Franciscan Clarist Congregation in Kerala, India. Our order has about 7,100 members. The sisters are serving many countries all over the world. We are serving schools, universities, hospitals and clinics. We have orphanages, schools for special needs children, rehabilitation centers, and social service centers. Their charism is the pursuit of perfect charity in union with the love of Jesus who emptied Himself for us, sharing daily in His poverty, humility, suffering, and self-emptying.

We have brochures on the scrip table at St. Bernard and the shelf in the back of church at Ascension to know more about our community.

~ Sr. Jancy and Sr. Pranitha

Prayer for Consecrated Persons

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of secular institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

St Bernard

Statement of Activities

March 31, 2015

	YTD Year to Date	YTD Budget 75%	Percent of YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income				
Contributions Revenue	152,701.56	167,667.00	91%	224,800.00
Chili Feed Net	5,742.94	6,500.00	88%	6,500.00
Other Parish Revenue	8,772.02	7,299.40	120%	9,733.00
Faith Formation	4,074.86	3,735.54	109%	4,981.00
School	147,212.69	160,522.95	92%	196,801.00
Daycare	29,094.50	19,584.88	149%	26,400.00
Lunch Program	14,338.06	14,880.00	96%	21,000.00
Income Totals:	361,936.63	418,624.54	86%	491,465.00
Expense				
Staff Salaries and Benefits	38,396.60	38,187.54	101%	50,917.00
Administrative/Office Expense	22,780.56	20,136.87	113%	26,850.00
Utilities	10,158.62	12,449.70	82%	16,600.00
Property/Liability Insurance	6,184.78	9,000.00	69%	12,000.00
Archdiocesan Assessment	17,667.65	17,915.67	99%	23,887.53
Maintenance & Repair Exp	16,263.00	9,712.08	167%	12,950.00
Liturgy & Liturgy Supplies	3,255.72	3,637.35	90%	4,850.00
Youth Formation	1,870.75	3,412.98	55%	4,551.00
School	258,573.87	220,443.89	117%	299,154.25
Daycare	4,931.17	4,335.97	114%	6,400.00
Lunch Program	14,349.66	16,453.94	87%	21,000.00
Expense Totals:	394,432.38	336,185.96	117%	479,159.78
Income - Expense = Net: Gain (Loss)	(32,495.75)	82,438.58		12,305.22

St. Bernard's Finance Council Minutes
3/16/2015

Attendance: Fr. Gregory, Bernie Shambour, Ralph Laumann, Lenny Hoen Jr, Andy Kleindl, Elroy Knauer, Kelli Starkey, Roger Storms, Dave Cebulla

Father Gregory called the meeting to order.

Roger Storms updated the council on the church roof re-shingling project. Two proposals have been received. Dave Cebulla and Roger will meet with one additional contractor. Dave will proceed with the claim on the insurance for the old shingles.

Motion for Dave and Roger to continue due diligence for roof contractor acceptance. Motion approved.

Motion to accept Klein Bank financing proposal and proceed with proxy. Motion approved.

Fr. Gregory spoke with the Trustee's of the Sister Christa Fund. They have agreed to provide a matching donation of up to \$25,000 for the Balance our Books campaign.

Balance our Books Campaign –A narrative and graphical representation of the parish's financial challenges, what has contributed to them, and the projected cash flow at Fall 2015 has been created. The parish is projected to have a significant cash flow shortfall year ending June 30, 2015. This information will be presented to parishioners by Fr. during Sunday mass and will also be included as an insert to the bulletin for at least two weeks.

Meeting adjourned with a prayer by Fr. Gregory.

Donated By:

Herbert and Terri Reiling
Donald and Mary Beckrich
Phyllis Vos
Brian Vos
Calvin and Mary Sue Thaemert
Bernard and Donna Meuleners

Hilary and Irene Drees

Lorna Stelten
Patricia Wessale
Sarah Foley
Helen Nicklaus
Ron and Sue Neubarth
James and Mary Meuwissen
Benjamin and Judy Jenkins
Jerry and Shelly Machacek
Alan Bongard
Leonard and Rose Hoen, Jr.
Jerry and Diane Beckrich
Shirley Aretz
Ralph and Carol Laumann
Richard and Lorna Paul
Patricia Quinn

Roger and Joann Schmitz
Bernie and Karen Shambour, Jr.
Bernard Shambour, Sr.
Ronald Hilgers
Bruce and Cheryl Meuwissen

In Memory of:

Ervin and Ositha Reiling

Deceased members of the Schepers and Vos Families

Jacob Harris
Mike Popelka, Jerry and Elizabeth Flusemann,
Francis and Rose Meuleners
George Diethelm, Margaret Diethelm,
Hilarius Drees, Agnes Drees
John Stelten
Kevin Anthony Wessale, Roland and Violet Hron
Dave Foley
Bob Nicklaus, Nicklaus and Wirtz Families
Clarence Wickenhauser

Christopher Jenkins, Richard Tysk
Paul Amberg, Donald Machacek

Theresa Feist
Family Members
Cyril Aretz
Wickenhauser and Laumann Families
Deceased members of Rich and Lorna Paul Families
Martin J. Quinn, Leonard Sr. and Lorraine Hoen,
James Sr. and Nellie Quinn, Theresa Feist
The Schmitz Family
Bud and Idella Meuwissen, Phillip Shambour
Irene Shambour

Eugene Eiden, Steve Ehalt, Arlene Eiden Forner

Thank you all for your generous donations towards the Easter flowers. They are beautiful! !

St. Bernard Church—May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DURING THE MONTH OF MAY THE ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED 30 MINUETS BEFORE ALL WEEKEND MASSES.						2 Church: Mary Lou Wildung Narthex: Koolman, Storms, Hammers
3 Adult Choir—10AM	4	5 No Mass	6 Eucharistic Adoration—After the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 8:00 pm.	7 No Mass	8	9 Church: Nancy Elike & Laurel Williams. Narthex: John Eiden Family
10	11 School Committee Meeting 7:0 PM	12 No Mass May Crowning at 1PM	13	14 No Mass	15	16 Belinda Storms & Sandy Siegle. Narthex: Bob Symanitz & Brian Vos
17 Free Spirit Choir 10AM	18 Parish Council meets at 7pm. In the Narthex of the Church. Finance Committee meets at 8pm. In the Narthex of the Church.	19 No Mass	20	21 No Mass	22 Plant pick up	23 Church: Bob Simon Narthex: Hammers
24	25 Memorial Day No School Mass at 8:45 at Ascension Church	26 No Mass	27 Preschool and Kindergarten Graduation 6:30 PM	28 Sixth Grade Graduation Mass at 7PM.	29 Last Day of School and Picnic for parents, parishioners and friends. Watch the bulletin for more information.	30 Church: Jon & Diane Wickenhauser Narthex: Victoria Arnst & Julie Clemensen
31 Bishop Andrew Cozzens, celebrant at the 10 am Mass.				STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE. BE A STEWARD OF YOUR TIME AND VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH KEEPING THE HOUSE OF	THE LORD CLEAN. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP CLEAN THE CHURCH OR THE NARTHEX, PLEASE CONTACT SARAH	HAMMERS AT 612-385-5096. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CLEAN THE CHURCH AND NARTHEX!