

**On June 1, 2016 area Christian congregations celebrated our annual Central HS Baccalaureate service. It was a beautiful ecumenical service. Three senior students from our parishes—Beth George, April Feist and Joe Lemmer—were among those who gave talks. They shared about how they valued their Catholic Faith. Parishioners in attendance and I were encouraged, edified and grateful for their witness of faith. I am especially grateful for their parents & families for handing on to them the treasure of our Catholic Faith—THANK YOU! We have heard from Beth and April and this week we finish with the final talk given by Joe.**

**Yours in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fr. Gregory**

I was told to talk about my journey of faith, and how it has made me the person that I am today. But I'm not going to talk about myself. I'm not supposed to talk about myself. As I look back at my past, I realize that it shouldn't have been about myself. As I look forward to the future, I pray that it will not be about myself. What everything should be about, from the moment that we are born, to the day that we die, everything should be about Our Father.

I challenge you to find two words that are more beautiful in the Bible. Our Father. These two words sum up everything about the reason of our existence; why we were created, why Jesus was sent to suffer for our salvation, and why we will be taken into heaven to celebrate in His eternal glory. All of this stems from the fact that he is Our Father, and, therefore, He loves us.

The prologue of the Catechism of the Catholic Church starts as such: "God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls him to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him with all his strength." This is the purpose of our lives; to seek God, to know God, and to love God.

As we graduate high school, we have already begun to make enormous decisions that will affect the rest of our lives; where we're going to college, what career path to pursue, and who to have an intimate relationship with. As we make these choices, it is our duty as Christians to ask ourselves if these choices are our will or the will of Our Father, and if these choices will satisfy our calling to seek, know, and love God.

Outside of these big decisions, we also need to pursue our calling in our day-to-day lives. How do we seek Him, know Him, and love Him in our routine schedule? There are two things that are essential for a thriving relationship with Our Father—prayer and the Sacraments.

I'm not going to lie, I struggle so much with maintaining a routine prayer life. I know it's essential, but I have a hard time finding the willpower and the attention span to commit a small portion of the day to Our Father, and that needs to change. I need to change. I look to my mom for inspiration. She has such a beautiful devotion to prayer.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton says "We must pray without ceasing, in every occurrence and employment of our lives - that prayer which is rather a habit of lifting up the heart to God as in a constant communication with Him." This is right. By praying, we are seeking God, and by consistently communicating with Him, we come to know Him.

There are seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, but there are two in particular that go hand in hand in bringing people into God's love, those sacraments being Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confession. I love Confession. Yes, I reluctantly force myself to go every time. Yes, it's awkward and embarrassing and scary, but there's something profoundly beautiful about it. To be able to kneel down and unload 64 dexiall of the sinful baggage that I've collected, to offer it in contrition and remorse before a merciful and loving God...it's the second most amazing thing about the Catholic faith.

The first most amazing thing is receiving the Blessed Eucharist, the true Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord, Jesus Christ, especially after receiving absolution in Confession. This is why these two go hand in hand; Confession is used for preparation, so that we might be as worthy as possible to receive the King of the Universe on our tongues; and when we do so, we receive his love in the fullest possible way, fulfilling our call to seek Him, to know Him, and to love Him.

As I close this speech, I want to impress upon everyone the importance of making God's love the number one priority of your life. Graduation and moving on is a time for acknowledging accomplishments and striving to be successful and important, but it is an even better time for remembering what the future should really be about; the love of Our Father. It was St. Therese the Little Flower that said "We can do no great things, only small things with great love", and graduation is a perfect time to keep that in mind. ~Joe Lemmer

## **CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL MATCHING GRANT RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE**

On Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. to Noon is Bag Day. The St. Bernard's Society of Catholic United Financial will hold a Rummage Sale at St. Bernard's School Cafeteria. This is a matching grant fundraiser for the benefit of religious Education. We are asking the members of our Parish to help support this event by donating items and helping to organize and carryout the sale.

In order to make this sale successful; we have a few reminders:

1. Please do not bring Dumpster items-we can't afford to pay to have them removed after the sale.
2. No electronic equipment will be accepted (anything that is computer related).
3. Names and phone numbers will be required for large items-if the item doesn't sell you will be responsible for removing it as soon as the sale is over.
4. Electric items must be in working order (e.g. tools, appliances, etc.)
5. Clothing must be in clean, usable condition-not stained or in need of repair.
6. Please remove all garage sale tags.
7. No encyclopedia sets or window blinds will be accepted.
8. No Infant Car Seats, High chairs, Cribs etc. We are not allowed to sell these items because of safety codes.

**Can you help?** We have sign-up sheets located at the Scrip table for people to help organize drop off items and help on the sale dates. Please consider joining us—we have a wonderful time together!

### **Drop off dates and times for Rummage Sale items are:**

Saturday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	After the 8:00 p.m. Mass.
Sunday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. & after the 10:00 a.m. Mass
Saturday, July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	After the 8:00 p.m. Mass.
Sunday, July 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. & after the 10:00 a.m. Mass
Monday, July 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.

**No drop offs will be accepted after 7:00 p.m. on July 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Drop off dates and times for Bake Sale items are:**

Wednesday, July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Beginning at 7:30 a.m.
Thursday, July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Beginning at 7:30 a.m.

# St. Bernard Church—July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Church: Mary Lou Wilding, Narthex: Kooiman, Storms, Hammers
3 Adult Choir-Sings 10AM Mass	4 NO MASS	5 NO MASS	6 Eucharistic Adoration after the 8am Mass until 8pm.	7 NO MASS	8	9 Church: Nancy Elke & Laurel Williams. Narthex: Hammers
10	11 Parish Council Meeting 7PM St. Anne's Room	12 NO MASS	13	14 NO MASS	15	16 Church: Belinda Storms & Sandy Siegle. Narthex: Kellie Starky. SCHOOL
17 Free Spirit Choir Sings 10AM Mass. SCHOOL OPEN 9AM & AFTER	18 Finance Council Meeting 7PM St. Anne's Room.	19 NO MASS	20	21 NO MASS	22	23 Church: Bob Simon. Narthex: Hammers. SCHOOL OPEN AFTER MASS
24 SCHOOL OPEN 9AM & AFTER 10AM MASS.	25 SCHOOL OPEN 9AM TO 7PM TO BRING ITEMS FOR RUMMAGE SALE	26 NO MASS SCHOOL OPEN 9AM TO 7PM TO BRING ITEMS FOR	27 RUMMAGE SALE 8AM TO 7PM IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA	28 NO MASS RUMMAGE SALE 8AM TO 5PM IN THE SCHOOL CAF-	29 RUMMAGE SALE 8AM TO NOON IN THE SCHOOL CAFETE-	30 Church: John & Diane Wickenhauser. Narthex: Janice Schoen
31					<i>Needed—People willing to clean the Church or Narthex. If you are interested in</i>	<i>This very important ministry, please contact Sarah Hammers at 612-385-5096</i>
						<i>Thank you to all we serve our Lord in this ministry at St. Bernard.</i>

# THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

## —JULY 2015—

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For subsequent months or extra copies call or write:	Mert Lassonde 20953 Junco Trail Lakeville MN 55044	Phone: 952-469-5895 Email:mertlass@usfamily.net	<u>1</u> POPE FRANCIS	<u>2</u> REV. GREGORY ABBOTT OUR PASTOR	<u>3</u> REV. STANLEY SLEDZ	<u>4</u> REV. MICHAEL SLUSSER
<u>5</u> REV. DAVID SMITH	<u>6</u> REV. LARRY SNYDER	<u>7</u> REV. WALTER SOCHACKI	<u>8</u> REV. JAMES SPAHN OP	<u>9</u> MSGR. STANLEY SRNEC	<u>10</u> REV. MICHAEL STELMACH	<u>11</u> REV. JOSEPH STENGER CSSR
<u>12</u> REV. EDWARD STHOKAL SJ	<u>13</u> REV. MARTIN STILLMOCK CSSR	<u>14</u> REV. WILLIAM STOLZMAN	<u>15</u> REV. JAMES STROMBERG	<u>16</u> REV. ANDREW STUEVE	<u>17</u> REV. MICHAEL SULLIVAN	<u>18</u> REV. ALOYSIUS SVOBODN Y OMI
<u>19</u> REV. RALPH TALBOT	<u>20</u> REV. HARRY TASTO	<u>21</u> REV. ORLANDO TATEL	<u>22</u> REV. MICHAEL TEGEDE R	<u>23</u> REV. EUGENE THEISEN	<u>24</u> REV. XAVIER THELAKKAT T	<u>25</u> REV. DENNIS THOMPSON
<u>26</u> REV. GEORGE THOOM-KUZH Y	<u>27</u> REV. LEO TIBESAR	<u>28</u> REV. EUGENE TIFFANY	<u>29</u> REV. MICHAEL TIX	<u>30</u> REV. PATRICK TOBIN OP	<u>31</u> ABP. JOHN NIENSTEDT	

## WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

### PRAYER SUGGESTION

O God, You have constituted Your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind; grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.

O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (name of priest), Amen

**FOR VOCATIONS:** Father we trust you to call others to the priesthood to continue your work in our Archdiocese

A donation to help support *THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS* will be appreciated

June 16, 2016

Ten trees were planted on the hill west of St. Bernard Church as a memorial to Rita Peters.

2- MN Strain Red Bud, planted behind the St. Bernard signs along HWY 284

2- Rainbow Pillar Serviceberry, planted around the large rock.

2- Northern Catalpa, planted just west of the Rectory.

2- Kentucky Coffeetree, planted west of the Catalpa trees.

2- Prairie Stature Oak, planted down the hill, near the rain water cistern.

Variety:	MN Strain Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Zone: 4
H x W:	20-30' x 20-25'	Bloom Time:	Early spring
Foliage:	Dark, blue-green	Flower Description:	Bright, rose pink, 1/2", sweet-pea like
Fall Foliage:	Bright gold	Fruit Description:	Brown pods, 2-3" wide
Other Info:	This extremely hardy, shade tolerant tree was grown from seed collected at the University of MN Landscape Arboretum.		

Variety:	Rainbow Pillar Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis 'Glenn Form'</i>	Zone: 4
H x W:	15-20' x 8-10'	Bloom Time:	Late April - early May
Foliage:	Gray-green	Flower Description:	Clusters of white, delicately scented flowers
Fall Foliage:	Bright red and burgundy	Fruit Description:	Sparse production of deep purple fruit
Other Info:	This beautiful little tree is highly adaptable and disease resistant. It is an excellent option for partially shaded areas.		

Variety:	Northern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Zone: 4
H x W:	50-60' x 35-40'	Foliage/Fall Color:	Fall: Yellow Green
Form:	Upright, oval	Seeds/Acorns?	Large pods, persistent
Other Info:	Catalpas are tough, fast-growing trees that are not picky about soil or site. An impressive floral display of snap dragon-like flower panicles appears in spring. The flowers are reason enough to plant this tree. Rough bark and black pods also provide winter interest.		

Variety:	Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Zone: 4
H x W:	50-60' x 40-50'	Foliage/Fall Color:	Fall: Yellow
Form:	Open, spreading	Seeds/Acorns?	Seed pods, up to 8", persistent
Other Info:	Intriguing leaves, bark and pods make this tree an interesting addition to any landscape. While Coffeetrees enjoy deep, moist soils; they will adapt to many sites. These trees will tolerate salt, drought and alkalinity.		

Variety:	Prairie Stature® Oak	<i>Quercus x bimundorum 'Midwest'</i>	Zone: 3
H x W:	30-40' x 25-30'	Foliage/Fall Color:	Fall: Orange-red to burgundy
Form:	Pyramidal; somewhat irregular	Seeds/Acorns?	Acorns
Other Info:	Thick, rich green foliage holds up well in the summer heat and wind. It also resists powdery mildew. Leaves remain on the tree well into winter. This N.D.S.U./Iowa State collaboration is super cold hardy too. This fast-growing tree puts on an average of 14"/year!		