

**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! Last week we heard from Beth’s talk, this week from April’s and next week from Joe’s.**

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

### The Last Goodnight

The final drips of the faucet plunked into the bottom of the silver sink like a pendulum lumbering to rest. We had just finished washing the dishes after a Sunday family dinner. While ice fishing with my uncle Matt earlier that day, my brother Kenny had caught enough fish to feed a wild pack of hungry teenage boys. Then it was off to bed with the four little trouble makers my parents called children.

However, as the stubborn 9 year old I was, I refused to succumb to slumber just yet. My mother and I stood in the narrow entryway of our teeny, tiny tin trailer house; I begged her to let me come out to the barn to help her with chores. Even though it was a frigid January evening, the thought of watching and helping my mother do what she loved drew me in like a cozy fire. As she clicked the tarnished clasps of her overall straps into place one at a time and drew on her barn boots one foot after the other, she gave me a proud grin but savagely crushed my hopes. She sent me to bed, and I listened with only a teeny bit more whining. “Goodnight, I love you,” she whispered softly. I casually replied “Goodnight, I love you too”, thinking nothing of this usual goodbye. Then she cracked open the flimsy, white plastic door and walked out into the tortuous winter wind, never to breathe another word again.

Later that evening my mother died of a genetic heart disease, and I was the last person she ever spoke to. This forever changed who I am, who I want to become, and most importantly, who I am in the eyes of God.

My Catholic faith has always been a significant part of my life. I was baptized at St. Bernard Catholic Church and attended school there for 8 years.

Along my faith journey I reached many milestones such as 1st reconciliation, 1st communion, and later, confirmation, but it wasn't until my mother died that I finally realized what it truly meant to me to be a child of God.

My faith had been damaged and put to the test, and at that moment I felt that it was beyond repair. I could not comprehend why God would do this to me. Why would he rip my mother away from me? End my childhood? Break our family? I was so mad! I was furious! What had I ever done to deserve this "wrath" from God? I blamed him. I blamed God for ruining my life, for putting me through this indescribable grief. The loss of my mother challenged my faith in countless ways. I questioned who he was, what I believed in, and almost every other part of my faith.

However, it was these questions, these doubts that ultimately allowed me to deeper understand God's role in my life. It wasn't until I questioned my faith that I could finally understand what I believe and what my faith meant to me.

I miss my mother with every fiber of my being and I will never ever stop missing her. But losing her allowed me to ultimately grow deeper in my relationship with God. I still question parts of my faith. And I still wonder what his plan is for me and why he needed my mother in heaven. But everyday I grow a little more and understand God a little better. My journey through my faith will never stop changing, but that's ok. It is this questioning, this searching that will continue to draw me closer to him.

Those tragic words, "Goodnight, I love you", shaped me into the woman of faith that I am today. I have a new perspective on God that has revealed something in my faith that would otherwise have blown away in that blustery January night.

*The family is the foundation of co-existence and a remedy against social fragmentation. Children have a right to grow up in a family with a father and a mother capable of creating a suitable environment for their child's development and emotional maturity.* Pope Francis Humanum Conference November 17, 2014

## **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.                 |

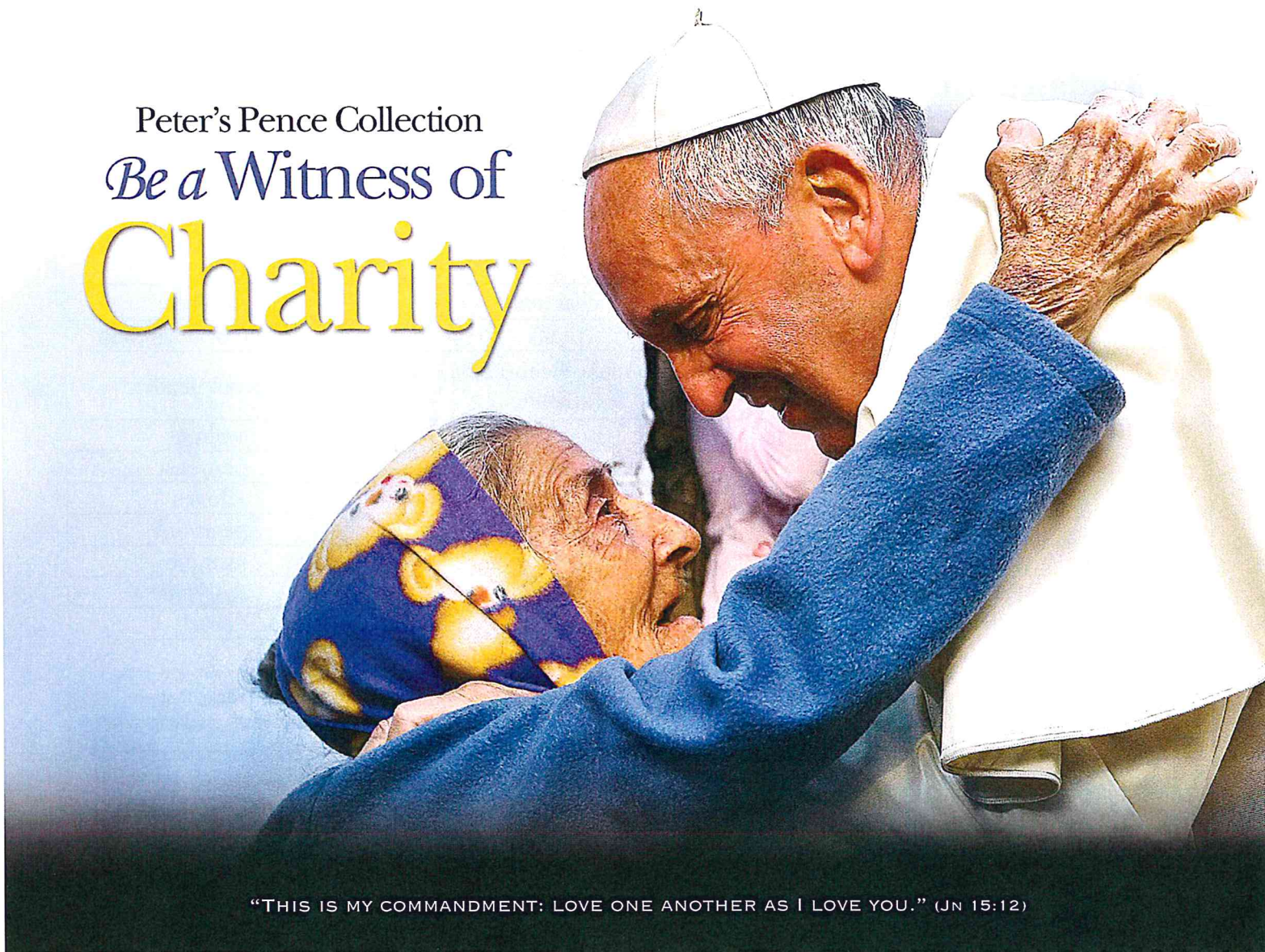
**No drop offs will be accepted after 7:00 p.m. on July 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **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. |



Peter's Pence Collection  
*Be a Witness of*  
**Charity**



"THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT: LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I LOVE YOU." (JN 15:12)

**I**n this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has called each of us to be a **witness of charity** for our suffering brothers and sisters living on the margins. He encourages us to "open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!" (*Misericordiae Vultus* [MV], no. 15).

Through the Peter's Pence Collection, we unite with the Holy Father as he reaches out to our brothers and sisters suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and religious persecution. We stand in solidarity with Catholics all over the world to support the charitable works and outreach of the Holy See.

In Pope Francis, we have a joyful witness of charity. By supporting this collection, we can experience more fully how "mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope" (MV, no. 10).

Join Pope Francis and be a **witness of charity** throughout the world. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Peter's Pence Collection.

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**"Charity is  
infectious, it  
excites, it risks  
and it engages!  
For true charity is  
always unmerited,  
unconditional  
and gratuitous!"**

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POPE FRANCIS,  
HOMILY, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

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Peter's Pence Collection | Office of National Collections | [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections)  
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194 | (202) 541-3346 | Fax (202) 541-3460  
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## Updated- St. Bernard and Ascension Parishioner Help Needed

Do you have any of the following items you could donate to the Level 2 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium? If you have any of these items you would like to give please call Kara Wickenhauser at 952-466-4719 or email her at [kara.wickenhauser@gmail.com](mailto:kara.wickenhauser@gmail.com) or email Lisa Whitaker at 952-454-1622 or [LWhitaker6@yahoo.com](mailto:LWhitaker6@yahoo.com).

### Items:

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| small seahorse                                                                                          | charcoal                                                                                       | leather                                               |
| geode                                                                                                   | rocks                                                                                          | buffalo or other skin                                 |
| bark-from a tree                                                                                        | taconite-to make steel (items of local significance)                                           | peacock feather                                       |
| wool                                                                                                    | minerals                                                                                       | walnuts                                               |
| dried flowers                                                                                           | metal necklace                                                                                 | papyrus                                               |
| different types of nuts                                                                                 | fur                                                                                            | cloves                                                |
| herbs                                                                                                   | lentils                                                                                        | spearmint                                             |
| papyrus                                                                                                 | dried pepper                                                                                   | jasmine                                               |
| chalice                                                                                                 | rock salt                                                                                      | eucalyptus                                            |
| paten                                                                                                   | gold ore                                                                                       | coral                                                 |
| small crucifix on stand                                                                                 | talc                                                                                           |                                                       |
| ivy or philodendron plant                                                                               | calligraphy pens and ink                                                                       | coin sized rocks that are smooth from a lake or river |
| special paper like resume paper or other kinds-if you have leftovers from something that would be great | Did anyone ever give you wine you don't like? We will take the wine-either opened or unopened. | oils or empty essential oil containers                |

We also need **pictures of the following things:**

| Envelope Label | Pictures for Envelopes           |                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sea Life       | sea monkey                       | clown fish             |
| Plant Life     | tree leaves                      | squash                 |
|                | cottonwood                       | flowers                |
| Animal Life    | sled dogs                        | lions                  |
| The Universe   | comets                           | Earth                  |
|                | solar system                     | the galaxy             |
| Human Life     | grandfather with baby            | religious sisters      |
|                | person doing pottery             | the Pope               |
|                | teacher reading book to children | bishop holding up host |
|                | man on a donkey                  | indigenous person      |
|                | people transportation            | woman hugging child    |
|                |                                  | children playing music |

## Updated- St. Bernard and Ascension Parishioner Help Needed

If you would also like to come and help get ready we are having **work day June 23 and June 29 from 9-11 am at Ascension**. We need items colored, hand writing, posters made, cutting out paper items, painting items, and staining furniture.