



Dear Parishioners,

July 1, 2018

I am writing to inform you of an opportunity we have to house a small school, St. Scholastica Academy, at St. Bernard. St. Scholastica Academy has a school in Isanti, MN and believes God is calling them to establish a second school in this area. On their website St. Scholastica describes itself as *"...a school started over 20 years ago by two women who were looking for a solid and Catholic education for the children in their area. It began in the basement of one home with 3 classrooms and 12 students."* You can learn more about them by visiting their website at <https://stscholasticahsc.com/>.

Having closed our own school just 3 years ago I know that the idea of housing a new school may be difficult for some of us. Sensitive to this reality, I write to seek your feedback about this opportunity. Please email (fatherabbott@st-bernard-cologne.org) or call (952-856-1050) me by July 8th with any feedback. Please, let us all bring this opportunity to God in our prayer.

Over the last couple of months with the support of our parish trustees, parish pastoral and finance council and building & grounds committee and faith formation staff we have been exploring the details of this opportunity with Mary Koralewski, Principal of St. Scholastica. In addition to our parish leadership the following have been consulted: the Archdiocesan Office for the Mission of Catholic Education, Fr. Don Wagner and his associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Parish in Isanti (landlord for St. Scholastica School), local pastors with Catholic Schools (Fr. Bennet Tran & Fr. Stan Mader, Fr. Bill Deziel, Fr. Brian Lynch—none of them objected to us housing the school), those who know the principal, Mary Koralewski (Fr. Anthony Stubeda and Mark Simons, Pastor and Director of Faith Formation at St. Pius X in Glencoe where Mary teaches faith formation), Brad Gelschus (St. Bernard Parishioner and architect), Kevin Matiak (building inspector), and Catholic Mutual (our insurance).

A few more details about St. Scholastica:

- It has mainly drawn homeschool families.
- It focuses on the basics of religion, reading, math, and English.
- It does not offer: bussing, before or after school care/activities/programs, hot lunch, computers for students.
- Classroom size is small and multiple grade levels are in a classroom.
- It works mostly with low income families and does not have an outside entity that provides financial support.
- The teachers feel called by God to this work and are paid a small stipend if available after expenses.
- They have their own liability insurance.
- The small school size allows students to have more direct help from the teachers.

- The school is Catholic but is independent from our archdiocese. They are respectful of the teaching of the Catholic Church and teach them. Technically, they are not a sanctioned Catholic School. We will still need to receive Archbishop Bernard Hebda's approval.

A few more details about the relationship between St. Bernard and St. Scholastica:

- Since families who will initially be served by the school live west of St. Bernard they were originally looking for a location in that direction but nothing worked out. They also inquired with Ascension but Ascension leadership chose not to engage them due to lack of space availability with most spaces used by faith formation.
- Our rental contract with them would be for 1 year to allow either party to end the relationship if it isn't working. Because of the school's limited finances, St. Bernard will seek to break even. Basically, the extra utility expenses due to the school will be paid by the school.
- They estimate a small enrollment for the 1st year at St. Bernard and therefore would be housed in the narthex basement. If they grew it is possible they could use our school building.
- The school would be 1st—8th grades.
- The school members will take care of the cleaning of the space they use. The school will provide their own vacuums, brooms, mops, cleaning supplies.
- It would be their hope to begin classes here this fall.

What benefits might be there for St. Bernard in this relationship?

- First, Mary tells me "we are already praying for you guys."
- We will be carrying on our long tradition of supporting Catholic education which we did through St. Bernard School and now do through St. Bernard Tuition Assistance Program. Now we have the opportunity to support a new school without having the heavy financial burden of having our own school.
- We will be supporting students who will invest in our society and church. Approximately 80% of their graduating seniors [they will only have 1st—8th grade here] go on to college, either technical or a four-year college. Some of their students have entered the military following graduation. A couple of the girls have entered the convent. They have had some students leave after 8th grade to attend St. Lawrence Seminary High School in Wisconsin.
- At St. Elizabeth the students attend daily Mass, serve Mass for funerals, set up for funerals and have assisted with parish fundraisers.
- Fr. Don Wagner of St. Elizabeth said that, "having the students present has added life to our parish."
- If our relationship with St. Scholastica continues, might it bring new families to our parish?

In Jesus, our Teacher,

Fr. Gregory

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28: 19,20

CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL MATCHING GRANT RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

On Wednesday, July 25th 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 26th 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, July 27th 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 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 14 th	After the 8:00 p.m. Mass.
Sunday, July 15 th	9:00 a.m. & after the 10:00 a.m. Mass
Saturday, July 21 st	After the 8:00 p.m. Mass.
Sunday, July 22 nd	9:00 a.m. & after the 10:00 a.m. Mass
Monday, July 23 rd	9:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m. Last Chance

**No drop offs will be accepted after 7:00 p.m. on July 23rd
NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED ON TUESDAY !!**

Drop off dates and times for Bake Sale items are:

Wednesday, July 25 th	Beginning at 7:30 a.m.
Thursday, July 26 th	Beginning at 7:30 a.m.