

We are very pleased to present our 2022 Catholic United Financial community service award to Vern and Nancy Elke!

First let's be clear, that Vern and Nancy have both expressed the same sentiment. They enjoy being active members of our parish and community and seek no recognition. Okay, dually noted, however here we go.

Nancy was born to Roger and JoAnn Schmitz and is a lifelong member of St. Bernard's. She is married to Vern and they are the proud parents of Mackenzie and Kelsey and grandparents of Brooks, Carson, Elena and Cullen. We have it on good authority that Nancy is also the "favorite" sister of her brothers Dale and Tom. Over the years Nancy served as our winter carnival chairman and ladies guild secretary. She is currently busy with decorating our church for all seasons, the choir and clean team. Nancy and Vern are both Holy Trinity volunteers at Winstock.

Vern was born to Vernon and Rosemary Elke and has 12 siblings. He earned a Bachelor of Science from Crown College and has worked at Sleepnumber for 23 years. Vern served our parish as a school board member, usher, greeter, choir member and organizer of the carnival. He has provided IT support for St. Bernard's school and church and been our choir director and Free Spirit Leader. He also serves with the Flags of Honor and Election Judge. For 50 years Vern has played with the Highlines Band and 30 years with the Polka Sons of Praise Band.

We thank you for your very generous contributions to our parish and community. You have truly modeled the importance of stewardship as a way of life for all to witness.



Our sales representative: Pete Orme 800-568-6670 porme@catholicunited.org

Our Catholic United group is very happy to have some members who help to clean our church and narthex when listed on the work list. This is a wonderful example of stewardship.

Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Bishop Joseph Williams Invite You to Read the Pastoral Letter



You Will Be My Witnesses

GATHERED AND SENT FROM THE UPPER ROOM

POST-SYNODAL PASTORAL LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, the blessings experienced throughout our Archdiocesan Synod journey have given us confidence that Christ Our King has wonderful plans for this local church. We are both so grateful for how you, the faithful of this Archdiocese, have gathered together over the past three years in prayer, learning and respectful listening to one another and the Holy Spirit. You have generously shared your experiences as well as your ideas, hopes and dreams for the future. Now it is time for us to join you in considering the question asked so many years ago by the disciples of John the Baptist: “What then should we do?” (Lk 3:10)

The Pastoral Letter issued today, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, reflecting on our Synod journey as well as the mysteries that took place nearly 2,000 years ago in the Upper Room, is a first response to that question, outlining a plan for the next three years aimed at helping us to be more vibrant witnesses to all that Jesus has lovingly done for us. An annual priority has been identified to guide not only the activity of the Archdiocese but also the efforts of our parishes and schools.

Our shared experience throughout these last three years has led us to the truth of Jesus’ conclusion that “**The harvest is abundant...**” (Mt 9:37). We invite you to believe with us that there is indeed an abundant harvest in this local church – so abundant, in fact, that we need more laborers.

Jesus’ response to a similar situation in his day was simple: “**So ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest**” (Mt 9:38). Heeding that advice, we ask you not only to join us in praying for more laborers, but also in being open to the call to serve as co-workers with Jesus in the rich fields that are our local church, opening your hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit. Our hope is that a prayerful reading of the Pastoral Letter might increase your desire to labor alongside Jesus.

We recall with joy that Jesus expressed his heart’s desire for us, his co-workers, so clearly in the days following his Resurrection: “**You will be my witnesses!**” (Acts 1:8). It is to make us witnesses that he continues to pour out his Holy Spirit so generously upon this local church.

Please read the Pastoral Letter and take it to prayer! Share the letter and discuss it with your pastors, your family and your fellow parishioners and friends! And then be open to the great surprises God has in store for us as we continue to walk, pray, listen and discern together.

To view it online or download a printable copy, go to archspm.org/synodletter or scan this QR code.

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READ
NOW!



archspm.org/synodletter

Read it. Pray about it. Talk about it.