

COLOGNE FOOD SHELF OPPORTUNITY

The St. Bernard Finance Council and Parish Council along with Father Abraham have continued the process of looking at what can be done with the vacated school building. Our church has been contacted by the non-profit organizations Bountiful Basket Food Shelf and Humanity Alliance to see if the lower floor that hosts the kitchen and cafeteria could be used as a food shelf to serve primarily the growing city of Cologne and the townships of Benton, Hancock, Dahlgren and San Francisco as well as using the kitchen to cook weekend meals for people in need. It is anticipated that both the kitchen and cafeteria would remain available for St. Bernard church functions as needed. The concept would call for the food shelf to be open approximately 6-8 hours a week on Saturday mornings and on one weekday late afternoon/early evening to be operated by volunteers. The Bountiful Basket would provide management and administrative duties as well as providing for the shelving, refrigerator, freezer and food as necessary to open the new site. There would be no cost associated with the project to St. Bernard with this site complimenting other food shelves in Carver County located at Chaska, NYA, Waconia, and Watertown. The Waconia and NYA food shelves have been asked to partner with this effort if they would like.

If a final agreement and approval can be reached, it is anticipated that the process leading up to the opening of the food shelf and meal program would take 5-6 months. At the present time we are seeking individuals from St. Bernard's and Ascension that may like to be a part of the planning process or who may enjoy learning more about how to volunteer at the Cologne Food Shelf when it opens. For more information please contact Sherry Witte 952-466-2031 or Roger Storms 612-618-8365. Tom Redman, Chairman of the Bountiful Basket will be available to meet and answer questions after Mass on the weekend of December 17-18 at St. Bernard.