

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Annual Stewardship Report: July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

The tip of the iceberg!

An annual report is just the tip of the iceberg. It is a snapshot of everything we have accomplished as a parish over the last fiscal year. Our accomplishments as a parish are possible because of all of you, our members. Everything you read in this report has been made possible because you have all worked very hard to make things happen here, things that have been guided by the Holy Spirit and blessed by Our Lord.

We live in a world of constant change, change that challenges us to continue to share God's gifts in such ways that we can continue to grow as disciples of Jesus. We continue to learn how much the work of St. John's is needed and we increase our giving in tough economic times. To all of you who have sacrificed to give or, even, gave more knowing that others couldn't, thank you for showing how deeply you care!

We continue to receive support for our many ministries: our food pantry, our school, our faith formation and youth and young adult ministries, our pastoral care ministries, just to name a few. You support our liturgies by increased attendance at Mass.

Together, we will continue to grow this next year as "With Open Hands, We Receive, We give."

God Bless us all!

Deacon Manny

FAITH FORMATION

The main goal of Faith Formation is to provide education for children, youth and their parents so that they can fulfill our parish mission of being a visible sign of the

Risen Jesus. There is a Faith Formation Board who monitor and support the work of the staff and volunteers. The goals that the Board focused on this year included to increase awareness of youth ministry programs and to begin to work cooperatively with the west side parishes in this area, to hire a fulltime Director for the program and to increase parental involvement in the program.

Faith Formation sessions for grades 1-8 were held on Monday & Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:15pm. There were 245 children in grades 1-6 who were taught by 34 catechists and aides. Susan Casleton was hired to facilitate this area in September. She was instrumental in adding a retreat for grades 5 & 6 to the program. Marge Schiffer, Director of Spiritual Growth, worked with the parents and children in the sacramental programs of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. 80 children celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time and 74 children made their First Eucharist. A collection for the Love Life program and the making of cards were two of their service projects.

Marie Francis coordinated the program for grades 7-8. She worked with 7 catechists and 53 youth. There were many nights with perfect attendance, which shows the effectiveness of our approach to middle school. A highlight of the program was the publication of the prayers composed by youth.

Amy Koehler developed and implemented a new program for grades 9-10, consisting of mini-courses and a retreat. Mini-

courses met on Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:45pm. There were some large group events also. Families seem to enjoy the options in this program. Amy also coordinated the Sunday night Confirmation program for youth. 56 parish youth were confirmed here in May by Bishop Ricken.

CHURCHTIME: Cathy Seidl directed this weekly program for 4-7 year olds during the 10:00am Mass from September to May. About 60 children attended. There were both adult and youth volunteers. A highlight of the program was the acting out of the Nativity story for parents and guests in December.

Vacation Bible School entitled "Pandamania" was held July 25-29. 110 children age 4 through 5th grade discovered that "God is wild about us". 70 middle/high school students and adult volunteers assisted the children in singing, praying, watching skits of Bible stories, making crafts, games and eating fun snacks.

YOUTH MINISTRY: In 2010-2011 Middle School Mania, held before Faith Formation classes, was well attended. There were events each month for middle school and high school youth that were both spiritual and fun in nature: kickball tournaments, faith and paintballing, dodge ball, bingo, sledding and service projects. Four high school youth attended "Alive in You", a conference and work camp in Chicago, IL. Collaboration between the West Side parishes was begun and will strengthen our program.

Liturgy and Music

The parish is blessed to have so many people who are willing to step forward as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Ushers and Musicians. Training for these ministries is done throughout the year, but especially in fall. There are approximately 48 Lectors, 58 Ushers, 95 Eucharistic Ministers, 50 Altar Servers and 60 Musicians.

The Art and Environment Committee's main task is to keep the Church decorated for the seasons. The membership of this committee is becoming more stable. They also care for all of the plants in the church year round.

Karen Bernstein continues to recruit and enable new members to enhance our liturgical ministries. Say hi to Karen the next time you see her in church.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

ADULT CONFIRMATION: Three people participated in the parish's adult Confirmation preparation during the season of Lent. Two were confirmed here at the parish with the high school students and one was confirmed at the Cathedral on Pentecost.

BAPTISM PROGRAM: There are 5 parish couples, including 2 newly trained couples, who facilitate the parish Baptism preparation program. It is held monthly on the last Thursday. From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, there were 68 baptisms celebrated here at the parish, most at weekend liturgy.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH RETREATS (CRHP): CRHP has held 6 weekends and welcomed 206 men and women since January of 2009. The CRHP Continuation committee, formed in the fall of 2009, has 9 members. This group provides support for the teams that are in formation for the upcoming weekends, monitors procedures and policies and prays for all past and future receivers of the CRHP weekends. The Bishops Appeal will feature St. John's CRHP in its 2012 campaign.

ELIZABETH MINISTRY: This is an outreach to those who are pregnant, adopting or having a baby baptized. 57 bags were delivered by 9 trained ministers or the pastoral staff. Bags contain homemade items and donated items such as blankets, booties, bibs, onesies, angels, prayers and infant toys.

NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION: Registration was done the first Tuesday of the month, after weekend liturgies and by appointment. 121 families joined the parish this year. Pictures are taken of new families and posted monthly.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: This group began in June, 2010 and has 27 men & women knitting/crocheting prayer shawls for those who are suffering through a crisis or difficult transition in their lives. 123 shawls have been given out in the first year.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Four adults participated in the process which began in October and ended in May this past year. Weekly sessions were held and rites were celebrated at Mass. Our one catechumen was baptized, confirmed and received First Eucharist. Two candidates were received into the church, confirmed and received First Eucharist. One adult was just confirmed. All sacramental celebrations took place at the Easter Vigil.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: This committee is responsible for the Thanksgiving outreach, Advent Giving Tree and Lenten food drive, all which benefit those in need. It supports NEW Community Shelter through a monthly meal and other donations. It provides support to the diocesan mission in the Dominican Republic and St. John the Evangelist Homeless shelter. It serves as liaison to the Mission Group which meets twice a week and sews for various orphanages in third-world countries & does medical mission preparation as rolling bandages and sorting supplies. "Helping Hands" provided meals and transportation to our elderly and those who have been in the hospital or parishioners with a sick family member.

The parish food pantry, which is open on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, is another of its ministries. A subcommittee began to focus on "Respect Life" issues this year such as the 40 Days Walk for Life and a rose sale for Mothers Day.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The Stewardship Committee assists the pastor in developing stewardship as a way of life in the parish, an attitude of the mind and heart that is expressed in action, emphasizing that all people, things and experiences are gifts from God. This committee is instrumental in assisting the pastor in the areas of education and formation, facilitation, communication, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the parish stewardship process. They help prepare, plan and implement the campaigns for Stewardship of Sharing, Prayer and Service.

VISITATION: Three parishioners completed the training for ministers bringing communion to those who are homebound or in a residential facility. 11 parishioners currently rotate holding a Sunday communion service at two assisted living centers in our parish boundaries, Cardinal Ridge and Hampton Manor. Every Friday a minister brings communion to Tender Hearts Assisted Living. The parish Catholic Women's organization leads the rosary twice a month at Tender Hearts & Cardinal Ridge as well. Seven people visit the homebound, about 37 people, monthly with communion. There is ongoing visitation at all four hospitals by the pastoral associate, Marge Schiffer and pastoral minister, Ruth Holloway. Deacon Nick Williams is a strong pastoral presence at St. Mary's Hospital. Fr. John also visits the hospitals & homebound, especially to celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. Follow-up cards are sent when the parish is aware of someone having a hospital stay.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE: This group was formed in September 2009. It currently coordinates Welcoming Weekends to introduce our newest members and

coordinates Greeters (approx. 96 currently-not all active) for liturgy and various parish events throughout the year. It sponsored the purchase of a magnet with parish Mass times and phone numbers that is given out to new members.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: Rebecca Tappen ministers to young adults aged 20-39 as well as young families. 5 Date Nights were held this year and 28 couples attended at least one of the date nights, which included a speaker, babysitting and some couple alone time. The first family night was held for families with young children and 8 families participated. Diocesan events such as Catholic Youth Expeditions, Boating with the Bishop and a retreat at Chambers Island were part of the offerings attended and several young adult parishioners went to a conference at Holy Hill in the Milwaukee diocese.

MISCELLANEOUS: Cards are sent to relatives of parishioners who have celebrated their funeral liturgies at the parish. Birthday cards are sent to our senior parishioners over the age of 70.

A summer retreat day was held at the Abbey in conjunction with the other west side parishes. The west side parishes also collaborated on a Lenten program for Men's and Women's Night Out featuring Fr. Willie VanDeLoo.

There are eight trained Lay Leaders of Prayer, including the Pastoral Associate & Pastoral Minister. They regularly lead Tuesday Liturgy of the Word services, Advent Vespers, Lenten Vespers and Morning Prayer during Holy Week. They also presided at the Liturgy of the Word communion services during Lent and some wake services and committal services.

St. John the Baptist School

This past year the school's enrollment was 286 students in grades K-8 and 54 students in three and four-year-old preschool. The average class size was

seventeen students. Twenty-seven students graduated from grade 8 going on to attend Notre Dame Academy and Bay Port High School

This year our school participated in MAP testing sponsored by the Northwest Evaluation Association. These tests are used by all Catholic schools in the Green Bay diocese and many public schools. They are computer-based and have replaced the Iowa tests. These tests give us an opportunity to assess students at all grade levels. Students accomplish the tests in fall and spring and we are able to analyze areas of growth in reading and math at all grade levels.

Costs per student were \$4344 this past year. Costs were covered by the following: Tuition \$2050 per student (47%); fees and fund raising \$580 per student (13%); parish investment \$1714 per student (40%).

Parish Administration

It has been another busy year on the administrative side. Thanks to all of you our Advancing Our Mission Campaign allowed us to pay off all past debt to the Diocese and Notre Dame Academy. We are now receiving funds to pay to the church mortgage.

Speaking of which, As of the end of June we owe \$532, 228.00 to complete the mortgage. We are still hoping to make final payments by the end 2012.

Your use of the SCRIP program continues to help meet expenses for major and minor repairs. Please continue to use SCRIP and help us save even more on our expenses. Financially, the parish had a very good year. Through the generosity of our members the parish finished in the black for the fifth straight year since 1996.

Our biggest expense this past year was repairing the steam pipes between the ministry center and the school. We also updated the controls on the boilers which allowed us to maximize the burner efficiency.

Minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting

With an opening prayer, the meeting was called to order at 11:25 a.m., Sunday, September 12, 2010 in the church of St. John the Baptist in the village of Howard WI, by Father John Bergstadt Pastor.

Self introductions were made by Dave Withee, Finance Council Trustee, Lynn Greisinger, Pastoral Trustee, as well as Pastoral Council Chairperson, Sarah Wulf and Finance Council Chairperson, Jim Socha. A copy of the Annual Stewardship Report: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 was then passed out and reviewed by all in silence. This report included the minutes from the 2009 annual parish meeting, which was then approved by a motion from Bob Buss and seconded by Kevin Rathburn.

Deacon Manny Torres stated that since 2007 parish membership is up by 40%. This year 119 new families joined the church; est. at 10 families per month. Along with that financial contributions, and those responding to church ministries, have also tripled. He also stated that next year GRACE will run the school system. A question was then asked regarding income from school activities. Deacon Manny stated that income from school activities all goes to GRACE, and that they lease the school building. The question was then asked, regarding the books, curriculum and syllabus used in our faith formation program; can it be obtained for parishioner review. Yes, it can be obtained from Marge Schiffer, Director of Spiritual Growth.

Comments then made: "music is wonderful, gets better all the time." "Some spots in church where we can't hear." Per Manny, audio meter checked, and all is OK. Couple of "hot spots" are better near the confessional. Lynn Greisinger welcomed all to attend daily mass. Attendance keeps growing especially on Fridays. Dave Withee spoke about the growth we've seen in involvement by parishioners, which then leads to more giving, as well as more participation in our Church ministries.

Dave also stated that the budget at the beginning of the year is at a deficit, but usually ends up in a small profit by the end of the year. Question was asked about the possibility of updating our bulletin, possibly introducing some color. Deacon Manny stated that they did look at ways to improve the bulletin, and as things have improved financially, the Finance Council will review it again. Father John then shared a few comments:

Focus on Youth Ministry

Council meetings are always open to any parishioner

- Goals: have a full church, pay our bills
- More involvement in ministry, leads to the feeling to give more
- Overwhelmed by the number of new members
- In the future he sees Deacon Manny as the Administrative Pastor due to the great growth of the parish.
- Therese Schelter is moving to a new ministry at Brookview Meadows
- Susan Casleton has volunteered to help, leaving one more opportunity for sacramental participation.

What are reasons for increased membership?

Aliveness, feel welcome, children welcome, good school, new to the area, lives here, came to church, but never joined until now.

No less school enrollment because of GRACE: 283 children this year.

Comments: We need a solid youth ministry. The rich tradition of scriptures is brought alive in today's environment; same message with a different voice.

We need to consider the different stages of their life in the church.

The budget numbers found in the Annual Stewardship Report were explained by Deacon Manny. He also stated that there will be a final "burn the mortgage"

campaign from now until the end of December 2010. We currently have a \$500,000 match pledge to apply to our current \$1.4 million debt. Hopefully we can announce by October 7, 2011 that the debt will be paid in full!!

A motion to adjourn was made by Dick Lemmens and seconded by Susan Casleton. Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Greisinger, Pastoral Trustee.