

Spirit on 7th Street

Spring/Summer 2019

An up close and personal look at the ministries of Saint Henry's

Parishioners take active role Building Maintenance Fund

By Dan Dupay, Parish Administrator

In June 2017 we began our Building Maintenance Fund through open communication and transparency. Our target was to collect \$120,000 per year for five (5) years. At this rate, we calculated we could address three items: parking lot, entrance doors, and roof.

Goals completed since the start of the fund in 2017:

- Replace entrance doors for \$75,000 (1-2 years) - Completed January 2019 for \$74,570
- Repair parking lot for \$120,000 (1-2 years) - Completed October 2018 for \$69,425*

**We were able to use a new product and save the parish a substantial amount of money with less cutting and patching done to the lot—Praise the Lord!*

The success of the Building Maintenance Fund, through your generosity, allowed the first two goals to be completed. You, the parishioners, took an active



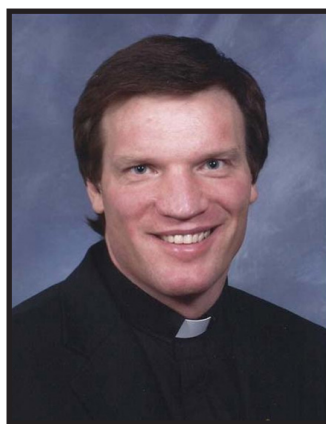
Three sets of steel entrance doors have been replaced, thanks to our parishioners.

role in the structural stewardship of the parish; we collected \$108,000 (FY2018) and \$98,587.94 so far this fiscal year!

Now on to our 3rd goal—the biggest expense of the three. We are in the process of discerning the right product to use in replacing our roof. We are considering products with a longer lifespan, most likely a metal product.

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“The Community of Believers Was of One Heart and Mind . . .”



Father Tony VanderLoop

The above scripture excerpt, from Acts 4:32, describes an early Church community that was very focused on the mission that Jesus gave them to love and serve one another, to serve the poor especially, and to bear witness to his resurrection with his power. I think all of us can agree that we want to be a part of a mission-driven parish, in which everyone knows that mission, believes in it, and becomes excited when that mission begins to be achieved through a collective effort. An example of

this enthusiasm took place at Old Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Chicago. It was an inner-city parish in decline, and yet the area businesses were employing many young adults who had many unmet needs. Under the leadership of the pastor and the parishioners who read the “signs of the times” around them, the whole parish conceived of a new vision for their parish.

I say “vision” because this word communicates that we all have the mission given to us by Christ to proclaim the gospel in our individual actions and words, and in our lives together as a community. “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the 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

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One Heart and Mind

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have commanded you.” Mt 28: 19-20. But our Lord’s mission is accomplished in a unique way according to the circumstances unique to each parish. Thus, it is important to share a vision together of how Christ’s mission can be accomplished in our particular time and place.

So, for Old Saint Patrick’s, the parishioners and staff began to carry out initiatives that were geared to meet the needs of young adults. Through the grace of God, the parish now serves over 4,000 families from 60 zip codes. The parish now has a Catholic school, performs 150,000 hours of service annually, and is a mission partner with other parishes on four continents.

What could be the vision for *our* parish? I asked three members of our Parish Pastoral Council to form a subcommittee to begin discussing this question. Really, we examined several questions. What are our strengths and weaknesses? Who are the groups that we reach out to well, and those not so well? What activities have been a great success? What

activities do we need to do more of?

With the entire Parish Pastoral Council and parish staff, we have talked at length about the need for everyone to know and to have encountered our Lord Jesus personally. This is a spiritual concept that can be difficult sometimes to grasp. Many of us have encountered Christ personally over time through prayer and devotion to the Eucharist. Others of us can point to an event in our lives that was a key turning point in which we know that we have encountered the living Lord. But in our discussion, we have had fair agreement that we must live as a community that invites all to personally encounter Jesus Christ.

Many members of our parish took part in Christ Renews His Parish. This was an annual men’s or women’s retreat in which retreat participants could choose to continue to meet throughout the next year and host the next retreat for the next group. The result was powerful! Many members speak of their fellow participants as

brothers or as sisters. The bonds that were formed with each other around Jesus enabled many to experience the Mass in a deeper way, having known the personal stories of how God had worked in another’s life and is working in their lives now.

“What could be the vision for our parish?”

“... Tell us what you believe are the needs of the parish and how we can meet those needs together through a shared vision.”

Now, we have had recent success with small groups who have learned the faith together through the use of streamed video presentations on the faith. Participants in these groups have spoken enthusiastically about how they have learned more about their faith in a supportive way with fellowship with one another, where life experiences are shared,

and prayer for each other takes place.

But we have also discussed the need to really offer ways for younger families to feel engaged, to learn their faith, and be invited to commit to the Lord together. We have talked about the need to build community through parish-wide activities that would continue an emphasis on learning our faith, but would also involve more recreation, personal fellowship, and service that busy families can be attracted to and be able to participate in. We have talked about the desire for reverent, but joyful, liturgies, in which the call to discipleship is heard and experienced.

You get to participate! Your input is critical. Next year, especially in the winter and spring, you will have the opportunity to tell us what you believe are the needs of the parish and how we can meet those needs together through a shared vision of how Saint Henry’s can carry out the mission that Jesus gave us. I look forward to that time with you!



Maintenance Fund Update

Continued from front page

As we continue to research the products which would fit best with our building and climate, your prayers and support are truly welcomed!

On a side note, I would like to share with you more good news. Last December, we were approached by a representative from the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), who conducted a lighting system analysis for our building. The report showed many areas that could save tremendous energy costs. We were also informed that there were rebates available to our parish which would drastically cut down the expense of replacing the existing lighting fixtures with much more cost efficient LED lights. The total cost for the LED lights came to \$43,241. We were given an instant rebate from Xcel Energy of \$11,265, leaving the cost to the parish to be \$31,976.

So where did the \$31,976 come from? The news gets better... We were given an interest free loan from CEE to cover \$25,000 of this amount! Our payment of this loan is \$490 over 51 months. We are already

saving approximately \$570 per month at the current rate of utility costs, an instant monthly savings of \$80. The remaining amount was from a fixture fund set aside for this very type of expense. We have been investigating LED lights for our building for a few years, however we were not able to move forward with the process due to one reason or another. Truly the project was the work of the Holy Spirit!

The rest of the incredible story of our LED process goes like this: we were given the estimate in late December, and we could accept it with the ability to do all of work, or just one portion of the estimate. We knew

that each 1000 watt parking lot light could be replaced with 150 watt units and save \$3,283 per year, so we accepted the offer by the December 31st deadline with those parking lot lights and a few other upgrades in mind. The process to bring the entire quote to the Finance Committee was stopped not just once, but twice, by extreme cold or hazardous driving with both the Jan. 29th finance meeting and its rescheduled Feb. 7th date being postponed until Feb. 26th. The Finance Committee, after review of the proposal, unanimously voted to approve the entire estimate, which included hallways, classrooms, offices and

kitchen.

So what's the big deal? The work had to be completed and inspected by the end of March (less than 23 business days), and our contractor had to order the fixtures, as well as hopefully find the time in their schedule to install everything. I immediately called Olson & Sons Electric the morning after the Finance Committee meeting only to find that Dan Olson had planned to call me. He wanted to check on the progress of our decision on the LED project because they had an unexpected opening in their schedule... I'll say again... This was the work of the Holy Spirit! Let us thank our Lord and enjoy the bright light! †



The parking lot was repaired, last October, and new lighting installed in March.

Parish Pastoral Council - What's It All About?

Have you ever wondered what the Parish Pastoral Council is about? Have you perhaps considered becoming a member of the Council, but didn't know enough to go any further? Here is an overview of the Parish Pastoral Council, which may help you understand more about the vital role this group of parishioners offers to Saint Henry's.

The Council consists of up to twelve (12) board members, Father Tony, and two (2) trustees. Each May the parish nominates parishioners to be on the Council for a three-year term. The terms are staggered to allow some new members and some continuing members each year. In 2019 there are three (3) openings on the Parish Council. Council members meet the third Tuesday of each month (excluding 2-3 months during the summer).

All prospective members can be nominated by someone else, or they can nominate themselves. A discernment process to fill expired terms is then held. Candidates must meet requirements and agree to all duties discussed at the discernment meeting.

Pastoral means to shepherd by giving practical and spiritual guidance. It speaks to offering a response that goes beyond 'just managing'. It is taking into account the life experiences of people as they carry out their desire to meet and praise God. Many times issues and topics that come to our Parish Pastoral Council take more time than those which a staff member can carry out. The decision-making process, therefore, often happens at a slower pace.

The main role of the Parish Pastoral Council is to engage in pastoral planning. This is done by studying the situation at hand, and reflecting on and praying upon it before a solution is recommended. Thus, the Parish Pastoral Council has a three-fold task:

1. Investigate the pastoral matter;
2. Discern on and pray about the pastoral matter;
3. Recommend conclusion to the pastor.

The Council often oversees the creation of a new vision of how the parish will accomplish the mission that Jesus gave us — to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations..." Mt 28:19. This new vision takes into account our local situation in our particular time, including what needs are felt by many to be unmet and need addressing. (Please see Father Tony's article on page 1 for more on this.)

Parish Pastoral Council members represent the parish by being attuned to the needs and voice of all parishioners. They act as a liaison to a committee or certain committees. Current Parish Council members are: Lanette Aitchison, Renee Berens, Carl Brakob, Paul Dehmer, Dean Flicker, Dick Frie, Carol Goodwin, Geoff Johnson, Donny Lill, Mike Moran, and Tim Pauly. You can find the photos of all Council members in the display case on the wall by the office.

Here is some feedback from some of the members on their own role as Council member:

- Lanette Aitchison has been a member of Saint Henry's for five (5) years. She believes she brings a unique insight and perspective to the Council, as she became Catholic four (4) years ago. *"It is my hope to facilitate expressions and concerns to the Council, and create an inclusive environment that focuses concerns towards a resolution."*



Lanette Aitchison



Dean Flicker

- Dean Flicker has been a member of Saint Henry's for 22 years. Someone told him that every Parish member should serve on Parish Council. He took this advice to heart. He believes that, unless you decide to become involved and change things, you have no reason to complain. *"Don't make excuses"*

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Parish Council

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for not serving your Parish in this important role. Being on Parish Council isn't as time consuming as people may think it to be. There are over 700 hours in each month. You meet for 1 ½ hours each month from September through May. People can make the time to attend."

• Paul Dehmer has been a member of St. Henry's for 32 years. Paul feels like every parish member should be on the Council at some point and, *"it was my time. It is a good way to see and understand the inner workings of the Church of Saint. Henry's."*



Paul Dehmer



Dick Frie

• Dick Frie has been a member of Saint Henry's for 64 years. After serving as a Wright County deputy (bailiff) for 8 years, Dick felt it was the responsibility of every individual to serve on a jury and felt every parishioner should be a Parish Council member. *"It is gratifying to represent the parish at the Council meetings and iterate the parishioner's concerns."*

Here are some desired skills of a Council member:

- Ability to build strong working relationships and promote the parish mission and vision.
- A desire to make a difference on behalf of the parish, by helping to discern how long-range goals and objectives will be best accomplished.
- Willingness to hear various points of view, allowing for the effective participation of all in order to arrive at effective recommendations.

- Willingness to accept that not all advice will be followed, as many points of view are shared and as the pastor uses his discretion.

"I feel that opinions need to be shared and issues need to be looked at with an open mind," said Dean Flicker. "I try to ask questions or offer viewpoints that will hopefully lead to full discussion by all members. That, to me, is the best way to solve issues."

Serving on the Council is an honor. You are involved in the decision-making process of the Church of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You get to know other parishioners in a unique, professional environment.

At times, there are lengthy discussions on a topic. Other times you can hear a pin drop. Council members pray together. They laugh together. They are serving the Lord; and that is a good thing.

If you are a registered member of Saint Henry's, please consider helping our parish grow by being on the Council. We need a broader age range of members, representing the concerns and attitudes of all parishioners; in particular, we need more younger adults.

Check out the display case by the office so you can recognize all your Parish Council members. You can also find the parish council minutes on our website. The link is <http://www.sthenrycatholic.info/Parish-Pastoral-Council>.



Words to Live By

"Personal prayer is a deepening of your relationship with God, discovering who God is calling you to be for him and for others...What you bring to Mass on Sunday is your prayer life, and, the deeper it is, the more deeply you can enter into the public expression of the faith of the Church. The Mass is not simply about you; it is the whole Church gathered as a sign of hope to the world. A community of prayer is a beautiful thing.

- Matthew Kelly, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic

Pallet Painting Offered

By Lani Brouwer, Communications Ministry member

Pallet paint night was a great success! This event was held on Friday, May 10th in the parish gym.

Father Tony and a group of women gathered to paint and socialize. The class included instruction and all the supplies needed to create beautiful art. This was a great opportunity to make fresh new

customizable Catholic images for one's home. Each project was so unique and everyone had a great time painting and fostering relationships.

Look for this event to happen again on October 4th, with registration opening in August or September.



Children's Drawings Decorate Sidewalks

Holy Saturday was a beautiful day. The sun was shining and our sidewalks were just as stunning. Sister Carrie, our very own artist, gathered with 15-20 excited youth to create bright and cheerful chalk drawings on the sidewalks leading up to our main front doors. Images of lilies, an empty tomb and crosses, rainbows, and words of rejoice decorated our walkways in preparation for the joy and celebration of our risen Lord.



Mommy Shower, Cornerstone Events Successful

By Keri Crusier, Communications Ministry member

The Just Faith and Life Preservers ministries wish to thank everyone who donated so generously to the "Mommy Shower" throughout April. Over 200 items were collected to help shower love and support on the mommy-clients of Cornerstone-Options for Women in St Michael!

In addition to the many other items donated, the Youth of St Henry's also put together 22 Mother's Day Gift Bags at one of the recent FYSHbowl nights. Cornerstone also opened their doors to welcome the youth in for a tour of their center.

Thank you to all who coordinated and participated in the events that made this donation drive a success. Through your efforts, you are helping our ministries support Cornerstone in their pro-life work, as well as support our parish in promoting a culture of life!



Over 200 items were collected to help shower love and support on the mommy-clients of Cornerstone-Options for Women in St Michael. Thank you to all who participated! Together we are promoting a culture of life!



Parish loses faithful member



Bernie Schmidt, 6/2/1934 ~ 3/25/2019

Bernie Schmidt's heart, soul, and the work of his hands have left a lasting legacy to the Church of Saint Henry and its family.

Bernie Schmidt, married for over 50 years to Marcine, had seven children and 25 grandchildren/great grandchildren. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather to his family. His family says he enjoyed camping, hunting and fishing, and later in life took up pool, bicycling and carving. In his retirement he was always digging into a project. He went from building homes, to cabinets, to working on church projects. They shared that when they traveled they would often visit different churches and he was inspired by the beauty and unique architectural design.

It was his love of carving and the work of his hands that led to our knowing and loving Bernie at Saint Henry's. He shared his gift of carpentry, carving, and woodworking very quietly, willingly, with great pride, yet humility. He never wanted the credit, as he said it was the work of God through him.

A mere mention of a need meant that you would very immediately

have a plan to complete the project. His flawless workmanship was beautiful and solid, built to last. His humble spirit is so apparent in the wood working that surrounds us everywhere at Saint Henry's - the altar table, ambo, presider's chair, cross, music stand, gathering table, benches, the library shelving, and more.

It was shared that Bernie was always kind to whomever worked with him on projects. If someone made a mistake on a project, he never got frustrated or irritated. He would just figure out a way to help them fix it.

We are very grateful for the gifts he has left our church and on our hearts. One dear friend shared, *"I look around our church and am constantly reminded of his presence and gifts. His fingerprints surround us. Bernie cannot be replaced and I miss him greatly. But on we must go and try to follow in his footsteps; a path I am confident leads to Heaven. So in hand I take Bernie's old articulated ruler, unfold a few lengths, and hope I can measure up."*

With that said, we would be remiss if we were not to mention the very heart and soul of who he was as a man, who left an even greater impression on his church family. The bedrock of his faith was brought to his every endeavor. His loving smile and his friendship was a great gift. His very presence communicated love, patience, kindness, interest in others, and enduring faith. His words communicated support, encouragement, optimism, with a splash of well-placed humor. One

family describes his beautiful gifts of cabinetry and wood projects, his enthusiasm to help people, and his generosity to many.

"Bernie was inspiring to all of us. He showed to others a nurturing love, inspiring us to live life with perseverance. He was truly an exceptional man."

Bernie had a great love for our Blessed Mother Mary. He was instrumental in beginning to pray the rosary before Mass on Sunday morning and at daily Mass. He loved to hear the voices of everyone loudly praying to our blessed Mother. These voices meant the world to him. His great love of Jesus and Mother Mary were evident in all that he did and said.

Bernie had so many wonderful attributes; he touched the heart and soul of many in our midst, but was never boastful or proud. He just very humbly walked with the Lord.

Well done good and faithful servant. We will miss you, Bernie; but the work of your hands and the memory of your time with us will remain.

Contributors: Fr. Tony VanderLoop, Sr. Carrie Link, Deb Lindquist, Carol Goodwin, and Alan and Kris Warmka



Saint Henry's altar table, ambo, cross, presider's chair, library shelving, and more were all crafted by Bernie.

What's New with the Hispanic Community?

By Father Tony

By God's grace, the Hispanic group in our parish has experienced some exciting new things! In more recent years, members of the community of the Church of Saint Stephen in Minneapolis have come to Saint Henry's to help the Hispanic group to grow in their understanding of the faith.

Hector Guzman, on staff with Saint Stephen's, has offered faith formation to the leaders of the group for about three years. He has systematically worked through the Catechism of the Catholic Church, typically on Saturday mornings, and taught with enthusiasm to enthusiastic learners. These learners, who then have become leaders, are now teaching the faith to parents of children enrolled in first holy communion classes on Sunday mornings. This family-style faith formation has proved to be very beneficial to families, and in terms of getting new families involved in the community and enabling them to feel welcome. Saint Stephen's, in the last few years, has experienced a

great revival of faith and rapid growth in their membership, and uses a model of going out to other communities much like the first Christians did from Jerusalem to various nearby cities.

Viviana Sotro, also on staff with Saint Stephen's, has come to offer a Called and Gifted retreat series, that enables people to identify the charisms that they are blessed to possess with God's grace. Our Hispanic group has become more organized and more able to create their own programs, as people have stepped forward desiring to serve the community out of gratitude to God.

This has been a theme this year – service to the community. This year, the community of Saint Stephen's sent Rafael Pliego, Elvia Vergara, Jorge Matate and María Vega as catechists to help the Hispanics at Saint Henry's to deepen their understanding of the faith, especially in terms of how we practice it daily. Some themes that were covered are: service to the Church and our neighbor as disciples

with holiness, Mass as the high point and central priority of the Christian life, getting to know the three persons in one God personally, conversion, reconciliation, renouncing sin, and prayer individually and as a group. A high point during the year was a night of reflection, adoration, and reconciliation during Lent.

Now, our Hispanic group will begin a prayer group that will most likely take place on Friday evenings at the

church. Rafael is fond of saying that, as modern-day disciples, we will always have trials and problems, but it is God's Church, so there is always a better way to handle them. The group believes that, by calling down the Holy Spirit upon them, that they will be blessed. So if you hear sounds from the church on a Friday night, know that it is a hopeful and joyful group asking for the Holy Spirit to come!



Mark Your Calendars Corpus Christi Procession and Parish Picnic Sunday, June 23rd after 10:30 Mass

The Knights of Columbus are hosting another Saint Henry's Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 23rd after the 10:30 am. Mass and Procession.

Get ready for food, fun and fellowship in the gardens!

Watch for signup sheets for food and supplies in the gathering space.



Totus Tuus: Summer Camp Time!

By Jessica Soden, Director of Faith Formation for Elementary and Pre-School

Faith Formation ended for the year on May 1st, but our journey of faith never ends. Please continue praying and learning!

One way your children can continue their faith journey is to join us this summer for our great Totus Tuus Summer Camp. We have four young adults who devote their whole summer traveling to parishes in the Archdiocese to put on this camp for the youth. They do a fantastic job,

and the children that participate have a great time and also learn important truths of our faith.

"... Our journey of faith never ends. Please continue learning and praying."

Camp includes daily Mass and Confessions, in addition to interactive learning, games and song. This year's theme is The Sacraments and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

There is a day program for rising 1st-6th grade students Monday-Friday, July 22nd-26th, and an evening program for rising 7th-12th grade students from 7:00-9:15pm, Sunday-Thursday.

We will be in need of a number of volunteers to make this week possible. We need two host families who will house the two young men and two young women. Homes may not have children under 18 living with them.

We will also need some adult group leaders during the program, and help in the kitchen to prepare and serve our snacks and meals, as well as chaperones for the evening session with the teens.

Please contact Jessica Soden if you would like to help! Registration for Totus Tuus Summer camp is open on our website.



Summer Parish Happenings At-A-Glance

Parish Picnic - June 23

After the 10:30 AM bilingual mass, there will be a half hour procession on the grounds followed by the parish picnic in the gardens.

Fun Fest - August 24-25

Bilingual Mass will be at 4 pm on Saturday, August 24th

Mission Week - November 30 – December 4

Father Sam Medley will be speaking on the topic: Father, Son & Holy Spirit – Encountering our God Personally.

Youth Activities:

Outdoor Fyshbowl Nights

Most Wednesday nights throughout the summer

Extreme Faith Camp - Saturday, June 29th-Wednesday, July 3rd

Big Sandy Camp in McGregor (pre-camp leadership retreat for high-school and adult leaders June 27th-28th)

Totus Tuus - Monday, July 22nd - Friday, July 26th

Friday, August 16th-18th - Core Team Camping Retreat

Wild River State Park

Church of Saint Henry



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Saint Henry's annual Fun Fest will be held August 24-25, 2019. Mark your calendars now!

There is a variety of volunteer opportunities available, either as

a chairperson of an activity or booth, or volunteering on the festival weekend. There are also many opportunities to help within each activity at the festival. Time commitments are 1-2

hours on the festival weekend, and time for additional planning and improving a booth (chairperson). We welcome all ages and abilities.

Areas include: 50/50 raffle, bingo, bottle blast, cake walk, concessions, fry bread, grand raffle, grandparent booth, Home Depot booth, kids' town, parking set up, pie social, Saturday set up, silent auction, table/

chairs set up, tear down, and ticket sales.

Contact: Sue Kunkel
763-295-2402 or
skunkel@ssthenrycatholic.com

Please contact office personnel with your name, phone number, and the area or areas that you can help with to make our Fun Fest a success this year.

Thank you if you already volunteered, and we'll see you there!