

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Questions Answered in Virtual Town Hall on May 13, 2020**

**Q1. We were surprised to hear of the poor financial situation at the Parish and School. How did things become so bad so quickly?**

A1. The Parish and School have been struggling for many, many years. Our cash flow issues are not new and did not pop up overnight. Late last year we, along with your Finance Committee, created a plan to attempt to address this situation. This plan included communication of the situation to you, reaching out to the Archdiocese for assistance in our stewardship and development efforts, and efforts to increase enrollment in our School. All of these were in various stages of implementation when social distancing measures were implemented along with cessation of public Liturgies. These COVID-19 responses made our bad situation significantly worse.

**Q2. If our cash flow issues have been going on for many years, how is it that we didn't have a significant problem until now?**

A2. Up until now, the Finance Office has been attempting to manage our cash flow problem by using built up cash reserves, by deferring expenses (i.e. not paying bills when due, but rather delaying paying them until a later date), and by accelerating revenue (i.e. using some of next year's revenue to pay this year's expenses). These have been effective ways to attempt to manage the situation, and typically work in temporary cash flow shortfalls. Unfortunately, our situation was not temporary but rather has continued over several years.

**Q3. Does this mean that the School will be closing?**

A3. With your generous response to our Deficit Reduction ask (269 families have contributed a total of over \$175,000), coupled with funding received through a federal government loan (see the Question on How much debt does the Parish and School have?) a decision was made to move forward with the 2020/2021 school year. The Parish and School are fully committed to operating the School for the upcoming school year – contracts have been signed for School Teachers and Administrators, and everyone is looking forward to next year.

**Q4. What does it cost to educate a child at Archbishop Bergan Catholic School?**

A4. In general, our cost to educate a child is over \$7,300 (approximately \$9,000 for middle/high school students and \$6,300 for elementary students). Tuition for the 2020/2021 school year was set as follows:

Grades K-4:	\$3,575	Grades 7-8:	\$4,750
Grades 5-6:	\$4,175	Grades 9-12:	\$5,400

Tuition was set at this level to attempt to make it as affordable as possible while reflecting around a 10% increase from the prior year.

**Q5. Why isn't tuition simply set at what it costs to educate a child? Wouldn't this eliminate the problem?**

A5. Theoretically, we could set tuition at the cost to educate a child level. However, we feel that at these significantly higher tuition levels, we would experience a dramatic decrease in the number of students attending the School, and, due to the principle of economies of scale, our actual cost per child would then increase even further. The class rooms are being operated at minimum required to be accredited under the State of Nebraska Department of Education Rule 10. The Early Childhood Education Center is being staffed with the fewest number of instructors necessary to meet the minimum teacher to student ratios allowed for licensing purposes.

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**Q6. How many non-parishioner students attend the School, and is their tuition higher than that of parishioners?**

A6. We currently have just over 500 students in the Archbishop Bergan system. Of these, 167 are from families who do not consider themselves to be members of St. Patrick Parish. A few years back, the decision was made to eliminate Parishioner / Non-Parishioner tuition classifications and instead use a single tuition classification.

**Q7. How many students are dependents of staff and therefore attend at no cost?**

A7. As one of the benefits of working at the Parish or School, a discounted tuition rate is available to dependents of our staff. These discounts range from 25% to 75%, depending upon the employee's length of service to the parish/school. There are 58 students that are dependents of staff.

**Q8. What other discounts are there for tuition?**

A8. We also offer a "large family" discount for those families that have three or more children attending Archbishop Bergan (excluding Preschool, for which the discount does not apply). In this situation, the third child attending receives a 75% discount and the fourth child receives a 100% discount when determining the overall family tuition rate.

**Q9. How many students receive free tuition?**

A9. Consistent with Archdiocesan guidelines, families are expected to pay tuition in order to attend a Catholic school. Tuition assistance is available, first through the Archdiocese and then through Archbishop Bergan and St. Patrick, but all families are expected to bear part of the cost of education. At Archbishop Bergan, we have 47 students who receive aid through the Archdiocese or other community sources and 40 students receiving tuition assistance directly from the Parish or School. Aid directly from the Parish or School is primarily in the form of a "work grant" program, whereby students receive a discount toward their tuition based upon the number of hours contributed to the Parish or School. In addition, there are several scholarships available through Archbishop Bergan endowments which were established by various individuals or families. None of these scholarships or aid provide for full tuition.

**Q10. How much debt does the Parish and School have?**

A10. The primary debt is the mortgage related to the Elementary building. We currently have a little over \$1.1 million remaining on this loan. In addition, in order to obtain cash needed to pay some significantly overdue bills, the Parish borrowed from one of its endowments, and has about \$207,000 left to repay. Lastly, on the March 31 financial statements, the School had a \$37,000 Note payable back to St. Patrick – this has since been repaid.

Since March 31, both the Parish and the School participated in the Paycheck Protection Program offered by the Federal Government through the Small Business Administration. This program provided virus-related stimulus loans to help small business, including not-for-profits like ours, to continue operations during the economic crises that came out of the response to the virus. Through this program, the Parish borrowed \$131,505 and the School borrowed \$548,972 – the maximum allowed under the program. This program is designed such that a portion of the amount borrowed may be forgiven by the Government based upon our payroll records over the next several weeks. The amount to be forgiven will be determined by the Government over the summer (likely in July or August). Any amount not forgiven will need to be repaid over a two-year period and will bear interest at 1% annually.

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**Q11. *The One Community One Faith One Future Campaign kicked off in late 2018. What are these funds being used for?***

A11. During the Campaign promotion, three progress goals were established. The first goal / tier was raising \$1.5 million. At this goal level, the proceeds would be sufficient to pay off the mortgage debt of the Elementary building. The second goal / tier was raising \$2.25 million. At this second level, proceeds could be used for both paying off the mortgage debt as well as supporting the deficit. The third goal / tier was raising \$2.5 million. At this highest level, proceeds would be used to pay off the mortgage debt, support the deficit and allow for capital improvements at the St. Patrick Auditorium. Pledges under the Campaign total \$2,017,000, which falls into goal / tier 2 – meaning that proceeds can be used to pay off the mortgage debt as well as support the operating deficit.

We have collected about 41% of pledges thus far. Of these amounts collected, \$137,000 has been used to support the deficit while the remainder has either been used to pay down the mortgage or is on deposit with our bank for these purposes.

The mortgage on the Elementary building comes due this October. While the pledges under the Campaign, if realized, would pay off this mortgage, these monies will not be collected quickly enough to allow us to pay off this debt when it becomes due. Therefore, we are currently in the process of refinancing this mortgage debt, effectively extending the due date to allow us more time to collect the pledges under the Campaign. We've been told the refinancing should be complete by the end of June.

**Q12. *What percentage of St. Patrick parishioners tithe?***

A12. First, our concept of tithing comes from the Old Testament, and it represents a return to God of 10% of all he has given us. How many of us tithe? Since we don't receive tax returns or other financial documents from parishioners, we have no way of knowing. Further, is 10% the appropriate giving level? This was asked once of a Bishop I know. He responded: "It depends." For some families, 10% may be too high of an expectation due to the number of children they have to feed and clothe; while for others, 10% may not be enough. The specific percentage we each give back to God is personal, and should be based on a conversation each of us has with God. The important thing is that all of us should be giving back to God a portion of our time, our talent and our treasure. This is what being a good steward of the gifts given to us by God is all about. In our last fiscal year, 1,065 families contributed to St. Patrick with the average annual donation of \$1,335.

**Q13. *How many parishioners are using on-line giving?***

A13. We use WeShare as our on-line giving tool, but have also recently made available PayPal as another option. Through WeShare, you can have donations deducted directly from your checking or savings account, or have your donation charged to your credit or debit card. We are happy to report that the number of WeShare users has increased – there are currently 258 donors set up for recurring donations through WeShare, up from 146 donors at this time last year. Especially during this time of social distancing, electronic giving is convenient, requires less time for processing and is friendlier to the environment!

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**Q14. The State of the Parish letter referenced the cost of health insurance has increased \$30,000 a month over the past four years. How is this possible, and why haven't you done anything about it?**

A14. The Parish and School are required to participate in the Health Insurance program offered by the Archdiocese of Omaha – meaning we are not allowed to source our own insurance program. The cost of health insurance has increased dramatically over the past several years, with annual premium increases of 5%, 10% or even more being common. In the corporate world, companies can manage their costs by reducing the quality of benefits offered or by passing along to their employees a greater share of the premiums. Since we are required to use the program offered by the Archdiocese, we are unable to reduce the quality of the benefits. Also, because our health insurance plan is considered “grandfathered”, meaning it does not have to include coverage for certain medical procedures that are inconsistent with Catholic Values, we are unable to change any component of our plan, including our deductible levels or the percentage of premiums that are paid by employees versus the employer.

The total monthly cost for insurance between the Parish and School is currently over \$50,000. Our employees do share in a portion these costs but the expectation is that these costs will continue to increase.

The Archdiocese of Omaha is examining our insurance plan and may be implementing changes that would eliminate the “grandfathered” nature of our plan. This would allow us some flexibility to make changes in how premiums are allocated, but any premiums saved by the Parish or School would need to be paid by our employees.

**Q15. I have heard that the Parish has to make a payment to the Archdiocese each month. Why?**

A15. Every parish in the Archdiocese is required to make a monthly payment to the Archdiocesan Administration Fund, or AAF. The Archdiocese determines the amount of this payment; it varies by parish and is a computation based upon each parish's Sunday collections. This payment is intended to help compensate the Archdiocese for the overall administrative efforts incurred by the Archbishop and his team. For the current fiscal year, the Archdiocese set our monthly AAF payment at \$14,234. In response to the current pandemic situation, the Archdiocese has waived this expense for March and April.

**Q16. Fr. Nolte mentioned looking for ways to reduce costs. What has been done so far?**

A16. As we mentioned before, our single largest expense is Salaries and Benefits. In March, when social distancing rules were first being implemented, we furloughed or laid off several staff members, including maintenance personnel and other non-contracted staff whose work was able to be eliminated or shifted to other staff. For those staff remaining, we've modified hours to attempt to reduce costs, deferring projects where necessary. While our buildings were open to allow access to teachers, we were able to reduce energy use due to the much lower volume of people. Throughout this process, our ECEC has remained open, although servicing many fewer children.

**Q17. If we have such a large deficit, why are we renting the current rectory and not just using the other Parish homes downtown?**

A17. The current arrangement provides us significant benefits. First, from a financial perspective, we rent out the smaller downtown homes that were previously used as rectories. The amount being received in rent from these homes exceeds what we are paying in rent for the current rectory, so this arrangement is cash-flow positive. The rectory is currently housing 5 people, priests and seminarians. This arrangement allows the priests to be closer to the Church and Elementary School buildings, so it is more convenient for them. It also allows the priests to live in community, which provides dramatic, non-tangible benefits.

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**Q18. Is there an annual financial audit of each facility?**

A18. The Archdiocese performs detailed reviews of each entities books and records on a periodic basis – typically every three years, with less formal cursory reviews performed more frequently. Parishes do not typically hire an outside auditor to examine their records.

**Q19. What can we do to help?**

A19. Our situation was caused by a combination of factors – there is no single item that created the cash flow problem we are experiencing. Therefore, there will not be a single-solution fix to our problem. So, how can we get out of the situation we find ourselves in?

1. Increase Sunday Giving from the Parish.

We are extremely grateful for the support our parishioners have provided us over the years! But looking back over the past ten years, Sunday Giving has increased just over 4%, while inflation over that same time-period was nearly 19%. So during this time period, our expenses have grown much more quickly than our revenue which has compounded our issues.

2. Increase non-tuition support from Archbishop Bergan alumni and families.

The Knight Event is a tremendous fundraising success. It is a fun, community-building event that provides significant support for the school. We need this same generous, enthusiastic, alumni-wide response to on-going support efforts such as the Bergan Fund.

3. Increase support for the Parish and School from the Community.

The Parish Festival is one aspect of our involvement in the broader Fremont Community as well as the community's support of our Mission. We need this engagement and support from the overall community to grow and flourish.

4. Increase enrollment at Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.

Based upon the teachers we currently have on staff, there is student capacity in each grade level. Increasing students will provide increased revenue to the school and help the School to impact the lives of many more young people.

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**Questions Answered in Virtual Town Hall on May 27, 2020**

**Q 1- What is the process for determining if a family gets reduced tuition? How does the process work? Is there a committee and who determines and what is the texture of the committee?**

*A1- In order to be considered for financial aid, a family must first file an application for assistance with the Archdiocese of Omaha and/or the Children's Scholarship Fund. The Archdiocese has a Scholarship program for students in grades 9-12, with scholarships typically in the amount of \$1,000 per student. They also have a Hispanic Scholarship program for students in grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> who are of Hispanic heritage, with scholarships typically in the amount of \$500 per student. The Children's Scholarship Fund is an organization that assists students between the grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup>, with scholarships typically ranging between \$750 and \$1,500 per child per year.*

*Archbishop Bergan's regular financial aid is open to all students in grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>. These are determined by an internal committee that considers several factors; the financial need of requesting family and how much money the student received from the other organizations mentioned earlier. These funds come from endowments that were previously established for this purpose.*

*Once all other avenues have been exhausted, Archbishop Bergan can also provide aid through a work grant program. Work Grant is a program designed to let the families work off an additional amount of tuition by providing assistance to the school and church. Work Grant hours are usually paid at the rate of \$10 per hour. For example, if a family is approved for and works 100 Work Grant hours, they could potential "work off" \$1,000 in tuition.*

**Q 2- What happens to the Endowment money if the schools are closed?**

*A2- First, we want to reiterate that this is something none of us wants to happen, but to be pragmatic, we have researched this a bit. Some of our endowments were created for specific grade levels or schools. Should we come to a situation where a decision is made to close a particular school, any endowment created specifically for that school or grade level would be impacted. If this happened, our research has told us we would need to first reach out to the donors of the impacted endowments to see if they would be willing to change the focus of the endowment from the grades that impacted to those that aren't. To the extent the donor is willing to make a change, we would simply need to document that change. If they are not willing to change the endowment, additional legal research on the specific endowment documents would need to take place to determine the appropriate course of action.*

**Q 3- What kind of assistance do we get from the Archdiocese?**

*A3- As mentioned at the last virtual town hall, St. Patrick is required to make monthly payments to the Archdiocese of Omaha under the Archdiocesan Administration Fund. These payments are intended to help compensate the Archdiocese for the overall administrative efforts incurred by the Archbishop and his team. These include a variety of training classes, including Safe Environment, marriage preparation, annulments, lector and extraordinary minister training, as well as vocations efforts for priests and deacons, among others.*

**Q 4- Looking at the reported deficits through February 2020 and March 2020, the deficit appears to grow by \$245,000 during the month of March. Why was this increase so large?**

*A4- The deficit is the excess of our expenses over our income. During March, our income dropped dramatically because of the suspension of public Masses. From an expense standpoint, for the nine months ended March 31, 2020, Salaries and Benefits combined for the Parish and School was \$2,685,506 – or over \$298,000 per month on average. So, an increase in the deficit from February to March of \$245,000 is not unreasonable given everything else that was taking place.*

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**Q 5- Does the Parish or School have a line of credit?**

*A5- Archbishop Bergan does have a \$250,000 line of credit with a local bank. This line is fully available to us as we do not have any borrowings outstanding under this line.*

**Q 6- Is the new position in the Development Office a position to provide more support in reaching our financial goal? What will this person's role be?**

*A6- The new position will execute the annual Stewardship efforts of the Parish and School along with implementing a pilot Offertory Plan recommended by the Archdiocese, and facilitate annual giving for the Parish and School. We would like to announce that we have hired Nicole Owsley to serve as the Director of Stewardship and Annual Funds for St Patrick and Bergan. Her first day serving our parish and school will be June 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*The Director of Advancement will also be instrumental in raising funds by reviving the Parish Leadership Giving Society of Friends of St. Patrick's, and creating a Leadership Giving program for the School. Both the Director and Assistant Director of Advancement will continue to ensure successful fundraising events.*

**Q 7- Are there any grants out there that could help us? Even grants for books or educational resources that could reduce over-all costs.**

*A7- The Advancement Office has been continuously researching the various opportunities available through grant funding from the Catholic Funding Guide.*

*Smaller application requests have been completed to attempt to secure funding for technology upkeep and replacement of funding lost due to COVID-19. For example, The Fremont Area Community Foundation has been very supportive in form of the grants in the past.*

**Q 8- Obviously, this year's Fremont Area Big Give was quite successful compared to previous years. How are you going to ensure that these successes continue?**

*A8- All donors will be approached to consider regularly scheduled gifts to the Parish/School. Consistent reminders of the event to all stake holders will be communicated prior to and during the event.*

**Q 9- How are you going to thank your past, present, and future donors?**

*A9- The Parish sends out letters of Thanks from the Parish Office staff. There has been a more concerted effort to evaluate all those that give their time, talent and treasure throughout the year and provide a personal thank you to them. This is either done in person or in a printed or hand written method. Thank you's are hand written by the staff member that oversees the Bergan Fund to all those that donate. A video thank you has been created and shared via social media and email for past several years for the Bergan Fund. A recorded message is produced through Qtego thanking people for attending the Knight Event. Hand written student thank you's are created just for Knight Event donors.*

**Q 10- With the recent announcement of the dire financial situation, is it appropriate to have 3+ people in this department when you have to furlough and lay-off teachers and para-educators that directly impact the education of children?**

*A10- We asked this question ourselves and we were directed by the Stewardship and Development of the Archdiocese office to be sure that our Stewardship position was appropriately staffed. We felt that this was good advice to be sure that we were able to offer avenues for people to share their time talent and treasure. Our hope is by employing this strategy of following the advice of the Archdiocese of appropriately staffing the Advancement office we will be raising the necessary funds that would allow us to operate the school with a full capacity staff in the near future if it is a fiscally responsible decision.*

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**Q 11- Every time I receive a mailing from Bergan, I receive two copies of the same thing. How are you going to ensure that wasteful spending like this does not happen?**

*A11- We are investigating this and hope to remedy situations into the near future. The solution has to do with running more efficient databases. Please know that the Parish and School operate on separate systems and networks, so any manipulation of the mailings currently has to take place manually.*

**Q 12- Clearly, I have a lot of ideas that I feel the leaders of the school and parish would welcome and value them, but how can I communicate with them ?**

*A12- email me [dan.koenig@berganknights.org](mailto:dan.koenig@berganknights.org) or call 402-721-9683*

**Q 13- Is there a plan in place to use the expertise of alumni to help out the school/parish when projects, fundraising, and event-planning need to be done? Talent, services, and brainpower can be donated by willing alumni to help save and raise money, they just need to be asked.**

*A13- Yes, we are currently utilizing a talent pool of ready to serve alumni in our fundraising, advancement and alumni board. These committees and have been in operation for quite some time now. If you are an alumni and want to get involved, please email [dan.koenig@berganknights.org](mailto:dan.koenig@berganknights.org) 402-721-9683*

**Q 14- Do you rely solely on the Fremont Area Big Give to raise money for the Bergan Fund or is the Big Give in addition to a year-long effort to raise support?**

*A14- The Bergan Fund is a year long annual appeal. This includes mailings, phone calls and face to face asks in addition to the Fremont Area Big Give. The fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 each year.*

**Q 15- What is being done to ensure that when students return to classrooms this fall they are clean, safe, and employ social distancing measures until a vaccine arrives? And will financial implications of this aspect of keeping people safe from COVID-19? Are there plans being made if the Knight Event cannot occur, or has to occur with serious modifications due to a resurgence of COVID-19 this fall? What about the Fun Festival?**

*A15- Plans are being considered at this time but we do not have anything definitive that we are ready to share. Please know that we will always consult with our local health department for recommendation and best practices before decisions are made.*

**Q 16- Elementary: when class size is too big for one teacher, are you creating a waitlist? Once list is enough to be cost-effective, then hire a second teacher.**

*A16- All of our elementary grades have enrollment that requires two units per classroom. Our smallest grade in the elementary right now has 32 students. We take that class and divide it in two to provide a class size of 16 students. Our largest grade in the elementary has 43 students in it.*

**Q 17- Why are we paying two principal salaries?**

*A17- There are not two Principals at Bergan. There is a Principal who oversees the Early Childhood Education Center, Elementary School and Middle/High School along with the Advancement Office and will teach two classes at the High School next year. We then have an Assistant Principal at each of the Elementary and Middle/High School and a director at the ECEC. These administrators have a number of duties assigned to them that are too varied to list at this time. We are appropriately staffed in order to meet the expected needs of operating a school and meeting the needs of our students.*

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**Q18- Please address staffing changes that are planned for the 20-21 school year at both buildings. Give specifics please. What positions were eliminated?**

*A18- All para educators at Bergan Elementary & Middle/High School were not retained. Cuts were made to hourly staff at the Parish office as well. Some hourly ECEC staff were not retained as well. One teaching position at the high was absorbed and will be reallocated for duties when a teacher decided to retire.*

**Q 19- Please address the number of students lost or not retained since March registration deadline. Meaning please identify the number of students whose parents had paid the fee to register for next year and have now informed the school that they will be going elsewhere. Please identify strategies, if any, that are being implemented to retain currently registered students. I want to specifically ask the number of students lost EXCLUDING preschool and preK numbers.**

*A19- We have only lost one student who reenrolled by the March deadline and recently decided not to come back due to our financial issues. Our staff has created a number of activities during the recent pandemic to try and help the students feel connected to the school. The advancement committee and school board constantly looks at our student retention numbers and asks pointed questions to improve our programming.*

**Q 20- Please identify how many different people submitted questions/requests for this event and how/who determined what would be answered during the presentation.**

*A20- We have a committee that reviews and answers all questions. This group combined like questions so as to not duplicate responses. The initial town hall focused primarily on financial-related questions since it followed the publication of our March 31, 2020 quarterly financial statements, but also addressed some more general questions. This town hall continues to cover these more general questions. Questions that do not make the deadline for submittal are answered in the next town hall meeting. Thus far, 20 to 30 people have submitted questions. We attempt to keep our town hall meeting to under an hour each session.*

**Q 21- what is the weekly cost for 'new' production of the 12 page, color bulletin? What was the weekly cost of the prior 8 page B/W bulletin? Have had feedback that the B/W version was very functional and provided useful info not now listed. Given our financial predicament and the need to be ultra frugal with spending, can/should we revert to the 8 pager?**

*A21- This bulletin is paid through the local advertising included in the bulletin. Our annual cost for color and additional pages is roughly \$1500 per year. Our hope is in building a good product that other stakeholders will use us as a source of advertisement. The bulletin is a great opportunity to capture and evangelize to our community members and visitors as well.*

**Q 22- Given the forced use of the Alternative Learning System (due to the virus) and the development of different teaching methods (i.e. - recorded video instructional lessons that can be replayed multiple times reducing the reliance on traditional classroom sessions), can/will these alternate methods be incorporated into the 2020-21 curriculum to reduce operating costs? . . . . to get more 'mileage' out of our facilities? . . . .to reduce tuition? . . . .and, all together allowing us to increase enrollment?**

*A22- We will always make decisions with this thought in mind... "what is in the best interest of our students?" As we have experienced over these past months, we were forced into an Alternative Learning situation. This is not what is best for our students. Given to option we will always choose to have "in person" instruction take place. We will NOT ever be able to reduce tuition based on our history of finances.*

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**Q 23- In January, I took a tour of the elementary school as part of kindergarten round up and when we got by Mary's garden, we were told this is where the new middle school is going to go. We were told that in 2022 our next campaign could be used for this middle school. Then we were taken to the mobile classroom, which is needed because our enrollment is so high. So in January we are talking about building the next school and by March, we are talking about closing all the schools. I understand the pandemic and the financial strain it has brought, but this could not have happened over night. We were already -\$178,00 in the church budget before the pandemic. Why does it feel the message isn't clear?**

*A23- Our current campaign had a master plan for facilities and was based on the One Community, One Faith, One Future Campaign Goal of \$2.5 million. If certain levels of fundraising were met, we were going to be able to put away funds for future building projects like adding a Middle School on Bergan Elementary. We raised a little over \$2.1 that allowed us to put funds toward retiring the debt on the Elementary school and some funds toward the operating deficit. If we would have raised more than 2.5 we would have been able to consider new building options. The next opportunity at having a campaign after this three-year commitment could have been directed at looking at building for the future but at this time those plans will have to be rethought.*

**Q 24- What are we going to do to change things so THIS time we are not just putting a band-aid on things, instead of fixing the problem? This has been going on for at least 15 yrs here at St. Pat's.**

*A24- We have reached out to the Archdiocese of Omaha and their team has given our Parish and school a plan to address our issues. We need to allow our human resources the opportunity to implement and execute this plan in order to view the results of their work. With prayer, work, dedication and faith we will accomplish sustainable programming that will take us into the future.*

**Q 25- Is there any type of organizational chart showing the positions and committees that are responsible for the financial donations and income coming into the Parish/School. (I think it would be helpful to know all that is being done so we can evaluate the successes and maybe not so successful endeavors along with being able to know who to contact in the event of wanting to help or if someone has particular ideas to raise funds)**

*A25- Canon law, operational policy that governs the Catholic Church, requires a finance committee whose purpose is to advise the pastor on financial matters. Our Finance Committee, which is comprised of parishioners, meets on a monthly basis. Additionally, in early January, we created a Global Board consisting of the Parish Council, Parish Finance Committee and the School Board. This Global Board was created to help better facilitate communication between and among these three important groups. The Pastor should and does take their advice.*

**Q 26- Has the org chart been evaluated? Are there positions that can be combined?**

*A26- The Stewardship and Development Office from the Archdiocese of Omaha reviewed our organizational chart through our development audit. Combining of positions and being sure that we were operating as efficiently as possible was first measure taken in March.*

**Q 27- Do we have a process to attract donors outside of the Fremont community?**

*A27- This is a great question and will be addressed by our Advancement Team as we move forward.*

**Q 28- Due to Covid-19 the Sunday giving has been down, and there's no guarantee we will have the St. Pat's Festival, are there other fundraising ideas the parish is considering?**

*A28- Plan B has already been implemented and we have moved the Parish Festival to August 22<sup>nd</sup>& 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. In the event that we need to have a Plan C, if we cannot hold the Parish Festival in August due to COVID-19, it would include fundraising asks directed toward traditional supporters and sponsors of the Festival in addition to grant funding that could be applied for. All Plan options will include the Car Raffle and other raffles to take place regardless.*

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**Q 29- I read an article yesterday about a Catholic school that replaced their senior staff that had higher salaries with new grads with a much lower salary. The article said it was highly controversial but also highly affective. Do we have teachers close to retirement or that can retire early?**

*A29- For the past three years each of our new hires was offered a contract number that was the equivalent of a new teacher salary.*

**Q 30- I would also be interested in knowing how many and what percentage of Bergan school families (of those Catholic) are tithing? Or do many consider tuition their tithing? Are they “required” to tithe as some schools require?**

*A30- Bergan families are not required to tithe, however all families are encouraged to tithe. If you look back to question number 12 in the last town hall meeting, we discussed the history of tithing to the Church. All families are asked to share their time, talent and treasure with the school, but the record keeping aspect of this would be not efficient and would prove to be extremely time consuming. We would need to hire additional staff just to keep these records. We are working on a plan that would involve school parents mentoring for other parents what it means to “tithe” as a Catholic School parent. We are trying to inform people that paying tuition does not constitute a tithe.*

**Q 31- Do you think the alumni weekend will remain in July even though JC Fremont Days has cancelled or is there consideration of moving it to the weekend of festival?**

*A31- Sadly, the Alumni Reunion scheduled for John C Fremont Weekend has been cancelled for this year and we will honor all of the 2020 honor classes during the 2021 reunion.*

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Questions Answered in Virtual Town Hall on June 10, 2020**

**THE FOLLOWING ARE BLESSINGS THAT PEOPLE ARE THANKFUL FOR PROVIDED TO US WHEN THEY POSED THEIR QUESTIONS TO US....**

- The many people who support our weekend Masses as ushers, servers, lectors, EMHCs, musicians, greeters, coordinators, Deacons and Priests
- The support that our parishioners have shown to our parish during this pandemic
- The talents of the people who can stream our Masses on the internet.
- Town Halls! Very well run and informative.
- Faith
- Family Atmosphere
- Education my family has received from Bergan
- Great job educating our Bergan students.

**Financial update**

First, thank you all for your tremendous outpouring of prayers and support over these past several weeks! Your response to Fr. Nolte's call just before Easter for help has been heartwarming. Through early this week, a total of 329 families have contributed \$265,767 toward our Deficit Reduction ask. Through these contributions, combined with increases in Sunday Giving, donations made through the Bergan Fund and other fundraising performed, our deficit is shrinking. At the last Town Hall, we noted that our deficit through April 30<sup>th</sup> was just over (\$810,000); this was down from the (\$960,000) level at the end of March. While we are still finalizing the numbers for May to present to the Finance Committee, we anticipate the deficit through the end of May should have been reduced further to around (\$725,000).

We mentioned before that both the Parish and the School participated in the Paycheck Protection Program through the Small Business Administration. Through this program, we received a combined loan of about \$680,000. We expect a significant portion of this loan will be forgiven by the Government as part of this program – we will know more about how much will actually be forgiven as the summer progresses, but we expect this will help us to further reduce this deficit.

Through a combination of your generosity and this loan program, we expect to be able to become fully current on all our expenses before the end of this fiscal year – so by June 30, 2020. This is something that has not happened for as long as anyone on staff can remember. In years past, because we weren't current, the first dollars received during a fiscal year had to be used to pay remaining expenses from the prior year; this had the effect of our starting each year in a hole – and the hole seemed to keep getting deeper and wider each year. We will not have this problem for the upcoming year! This is something to celebrate.

We've recently submitted our budgets for the upcoming fiscal year to the Archdiocese. We expect to publish these budgets through the bulletin during July. Through significant cost-cutting, becoming current on our prior bills, and with your help, we were able to present a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. To achieve this balanced budget, we will need to identify approximately \$250,000 of new sources of revenue, but this is definitely achievable, and is something we haven't experienced for many, many years. We need to remain vigilant on our costs but it seems God has guided us through the darkest part of our journey.

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q 1- How do we recruit new students to a school that has a future that is uncertain?**

*A1- This is a great question. As you know that this is not the first time that we have faced financial uncertainty, God willing this will be our last time to face these financial uncertainties. We continue to be positive and be faithful that God has a plan for Archbishop Bergan Catholic School. As he has shown abundantly, God has continued to bless our school in significant ways. We will use the gifts that God has given to us to execute our Strategic Plan in order to continue to attract new students and families to Archbishop Bergan. One of those is our New Family Referral program, This program is simple. For existing Bergan families only, if you refer NEW families (grades K-12 only) to the school and their child(ren) enroll, you will receive a **\$500** tuition credit for **each and every** new child who enrolls! That's right! Refer a family who has 2 students, and you will earn \$1,000 in tuition credits! What's even better is the family you refer may be eligible for a Welcome Tuition Grant!*

*For each family you refer, you will need to complete the family referral form as it is emailed to you from the Advancement Office, to receive your credits AND the family must list you as the referring family on their enrollment paperwork. If you have any questions about this program please reach out to Bonnie Nebuda Advancement Director by phone at 402-721-1846 or by email to [bonnie.nebuda@berganknights.org](mailto:bonnie.nebuda@berganknights.org).*

**Q 2- What can we, the parishioners do in any way to help during this time of need within our parish and school?**

*A2- -Thanks for asking this important question.  
-Pray/Fast/Almsgiving  
-Sign up for WeShare and Flocknote*

**Q 3- I'm curious about the money we earn through fundraisers and where that money is allocated? Do fundraisers go towards the deficit reduction?**

*A3- It depends on the fundraiser. Some fundraisers are specific to an organization or group – for instance, the Archbishop Bergan Booster Club, Bergan Student Organizations or those raising funds to attend the Right for Life March. Fundraisers performed by these groups benefit those specific groups. Otherwise, fundraisers offset specific expenses or are used as general income to either the Parish or School, both of which help to reduce our deficit. As a reminder, our deficit represents the excess of our expenses over our income. So if a fundraiser increases our income or reduces our expenses, by definition they reduce our deficit.*

**Q 4- What was the enrollment of the sixth through 12th grade prior to starting K through five option? How does that compare to current enrollment the last two years?**

*A4- 2007-2008 Grades 6-12 enrollment= 194 2018- 2019 Grades 6-12 enrollment=213*

*2019-2020 Grades 6-12 enrollment= 210*

**Q 5- In other words, has the elementary school proven to increase the numbers for grades six through 12th?**

*A5- Our mission at Bergan Catholic School is to ... any opportunity that we are given, to grow future disciples is fulfilling the Church's mission to honor Jesus's last commandment.*

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q 6- How much was raised from porch photos, crispito and fiestada dine outs nights and where were those funds directed to?**

A 6- The Fundraising Committee developed the Porch Photo Fundraiser which raised nearly \$7,000. These funds were directed towards the Other Fundraiser Line Item in our Financial reports which all help the Deficit we are experiencing. The Booster Club developed the crispito and fiestada carry out fundraisers which combined raised \$6,000. These funds will be added to the Booster Club account with the Booster Club planning on donating these proceeds to the Deficit Reduction fund by this fall. The majority of these Booster Club fundraisers being conducted are meant to be able to provide a large donation to the Deficit reduction effort.

**Q 7- Are there any other similar fundraisers in the works?**

A 7- Possibly... we have an Advancement Team working daily on increasing our revenue in all ways, shapes and forms. We are considering donor and volunteer fatigue when looking at what we are asking for as a Parish and School. We have been meeting weekly as a team to be sure that we create, evaluate and celebrate internal goals. A great question that you can ask yourself if you are a parish family, "Are you Tithing?" You do not only have to be a parish family either. If you are a Bergan school family have you considered tithing to Bergan?

**Q 8- How many school-age (K-12) children are in registered families at St. Patrick's Church? Of that number of children, how many attend Bergan? Is there a fee or tuition to attend religious formation classes? Does this fee/tuition increase each year?**

- A 8- There are an estimated 500 children in grades K-12 that are registered parishioners. Our best guess is that 300 students attend other schools in the area, meaning that around an estimated 200 of these students attend Archbishop Bergan Catholic. Please keep in mind that 1/3 of the students at Bergan are not Catholic. An estimated 180 students are enrolled in our Faith Formation Program in grades K-8. There is a fee for religious formation. The fee is \$135 per student and the fee has increased significantly over the past few years.
- Upcoming Census
- Madrina Program
  - Do you want to donate a scholarship for a student in need?

**Q 9- What would it do to our enrollment and finances if 50% of those children attended Bergan, 75%?**

A 9- If we had an additional 150 students at our school we would be closer (an estimated 94%) to capacity at both buildings and our bottom line would be healthier.

## St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School Frequently Asked Questions

### Q 10- Could you explain the financial numbers that are posted in the bulletin each week?

A 10- After I joined the Parish, we implemented some changes to the information being show in an effort to more clearly show our financial condition. That said, we are open to making further changes, as necessary, to try and make this as clear and concise as possible.

### STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHT

**Deficit Reduction at St. Patrick**

# of responses received: 329

Cumulative amount collected through June 2: \$265,767



#### LOTTERY CALENDAR WINNERS

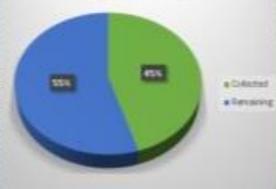
Sunday, June 14	\$25	Kathy Rayburn
Tuesday, June 16	\$25	Peggy Sjuts
Friday, June 19	\$75	Dennis Posajil

**Memorials :** \$25 to Archbishop Bergan Elementary School in memory of Dick Papa; \$600 to Archbishop Bergan Catholic School in memory of Charles Kubin; \$1,365 to St. Patrick Catholic Church in memory of Charles Kubin

#### Parish Financial Summary

	St. Lawrence	St Patrick	St Rose
Sunday Collections (5/30/20 – 5/31/20)	\$240	\$20,768	\$305
Budgeted Wkly Amt	\$727	\$26,780	\$674
Average Weekly:			
7/1/19 - 5/31/2020	\$652	\$25,451	\$748
7/1/18 - 5/31/2019	\$637	\$26,118	\$624
% Change	2.4%	(2.5%)	19.9%
Surplus / (Deficit) at 4/30/2020			
*includes Bergan	(\$39,140)	*(\$812,720)	\$4,298

**\$2,017,000 Pledged**



**Capital Campaign Update**



#### Archbishop Annual Appeal

	St Lawrence	St Patrick	St Rose
Parish Goal	\$3,011	\$94,495	\$1,815
Contributions	\$2,520	\$90,844	\$1,155
% of Goal	83.7%	95.8%	63.7%

First, at the top of the Stewardship Highlight page we present the amounts received for our Deficit Reduction ask. These are cumulative numbers – showing the number of families that have responded (in this case 329) and the cumulative amounts received through the date shown (\$265,767). Off to the right, we have winners for the current week from our Calendar Lottery Fundraiser. Just below these, to the extent we've received these types of donations, will be listed donations made as part of memorials to those who have died; we detail the entity to whom the donation is made and in whose name the memorial is given.

Below this, you'll then see the Parish Financial Summary, likely noticing columns for St. Lawrence and St. Rose. These sister parishes have their own financial books, bank accounts and records, and are completely separate from St. Patrick. The table lists detail information on Sunday Collections because this is the most obvious component of our revenue stream for parishioners. For Sunday Collections, we indicate the weekend for which contributions were designated. This will not be the weekend prior for a couple of reasons. First, we intentionally allow a bit of a lag time to allow for contributions to be mailed in to the office. Depending on the bulletin production schedule, there may be an earlier cut-off due to holidays or Holy Days that will cause a larger than normal lag in the numbers. We also provide the budgeted weekly Sunday Contributions for comparison purposes, as well as show an average weekly Sunday Collections for the current fiscal year to date compared to similar dates from the prior fiscal year, including a percentage change – showing if our average Sunday Collection is higher or lower than the prior year average.

We've received a number of comments about our presentation for Sunday Collections, and this seems to be the source of the majority of confusion. People look at the Budgeted Weekly Amount for Sunday Collections, compare it to the past Sunday's amount or even the Average Weekly amount, and are confused as to how this small difference generates the large deficit we have. If you remember back to the financial statement presentation we had a few weeks ago, Sunday Contributions are only one component of revenue from the

## **St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School Frequently Asked Questions**

*combined organization. Sunday Giving is the most obvious component of our revenue stream for parishioners, and as such, this is why we've presented things this way. That said, we will likely be changing this presentation so as to eliminate this confusion.*

*We then provide the Surplus/(Deficit) for the fiscal year through the date shown; in this case we are presenting the deficit figure through the end of April 2020. For St. Patrick, this figure reflects the combined surplus/(deficit) of the Parish and the School. We do not publish a deficit figure until we've had an opportunity to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss a particular month's results.*

*On the right hand side, we show the progress of the One Community, One Faith, One Future Campaign. At the time the Campaign kicked off, people made a commitment, or a pledge toward the campaign, with these amounts scheduled to be paid over a three-year period. To the amount listed represents the amount pledged toward the campaign, with the pie chart breaking down the amounts physically collected versus amounts remaining to be collected. Periodically, you might notice that the campaign amount changes. Increases in this amount represent payments made to the campaign that either are new – meaning the donation wasn't part of a pledge, or where someone is donating more than they pledged. We've also experienced some decreases where a pledge was made but is no longer able to be collected.*

*Lastly on the Stewardship page, we include the progress toward the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, showing the amounts donated thus far compared to the goal for the parish set by the Archdiocese.*

**Q 11- If everyone could increase their weekly donation between \$5 and \$20 a week, we would put a huge dent in the deficit, however there are some who will find it difficult to do that. Could you explain how SCRIP or Bakers Card could be used to help people reach their \$5 to \$20 goal of weekly parish support?**

*A 11- From a definition standpoint, SCRIP is an alternative to legal currency (so something other than cash). Our SCRIP program offers for sale gift cards from a variety of stores and merchants. These are the exact same gift cards available for purchase at the store. How does the School / Parish make money through the SCRIP program? We are able to purchase these gift cards at a small discount to the face value of the card – for instance, a \$50 gift card might cost the School or Parish \$45; when you purchase that gift card from us, you pay us \$50 for a full \$50 worth of value in the store, but we make \$5 – the difference between what you paid and what the card cost us. By using the gift cards from our SCRIP program, your aren't spending any more than you otherwise would, but rather are just using gift cards purchased from the School / Parish instead of paying in cash at the store.*

*The Bakers Card referenced in the question is a little different. This is loyalty card specific to this retailer. Baker's offers a "Community Rewards Program" as part of their loyalty card. In their program, you log into your account with them and then under Community Rewards, search for Archbishop Bergan Catholic School. Once Bergan has been identified on your account, you shop as normal. Baker's makes an annual donation to the School based upon the volume of purchases you made. Other retailers have similar programs, including Amazon.com through their Amazon Smiles program.*

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q 12- Many supporters of the parish do not have a direct connection to the school, and it is sometimes difficult to “feel” the presence of the school kids and parents at the weekend Masses. Is there a way to get the school families more involved in our weekend ministries as ushers, servers, EMHCs, lectors, musicians or greeters?**

*A 12- Lectors, Greeters, Ushers, EMHC are Bergan Parents*

- *Bring their children with them to Mass and many serve in the same capacity.*
- *Triduum- Bergan Students*
- *Catholic Schools Week*
  - *Informational Tables*
- *Serve fundraising events*
- *These kids are involved.*
- *When is the last time you were at a student Mass?*
  - *Thursday at 8:30*

**Q 13- Does St. Patrick’s own any investment properties and if we do what kind of income do we receive?**

*A 13- Neither St. Patrick nor Archbishop Bergan owns real estate specifically for investment purposes. As we mentioned on a prior town hall, we do own a number of buildings, including houses previously used as rectories. Are intent for these isn’t investment purposes, but rather by maintaining these properties, the Church has a contiguous section of land in the downtown area, and this may be beneficial for potential future needs. In the meantime, these homes are being rented with the cash flow being used to offset the rental on the current rectory. As we mentioned before, the amount received in rent from these houses more than covers the rent paid on the current rectory.*

**Q 14- Has there been any significant bequests and are any on the horizon?**

*A 14- Yes. We have received a couple of fairly substantial bequests over the past year or so. As a reminder, a bequest is when someone remembers St. Patrick or Archbishop Bergan in their will, as part of their estate, or as part of an insurance policy. Unfortunately, due to confidentiality of the person making the donation, we aren’t able to state from whom these bequests have come – unless these families specifically tell us we are able to disclose this information.*

*By their nature, we generally aren’t able to plan when we will receive bequests – because we can’t know when someone might pass-away. However, right now, we know of two individuals who have passed away, who remembered St. Patrick and Archbishop Bergan in their estates and / or insurance policies, and we are working through the necessary paperwork to allow us to receive the bequest left for us. So we do expect to receive a least a couple of these in the next year or so.*

*The monies that were received in the past year were instructed by the donor to be deposited into one of our endowments. As we discussed at a prior town hall, an endowment is account where donations are held specifically for investment purposes. The Parish / School aren’t able to access the principal, or the donation itself, but rather can access any income or earnings generated by this investment. So, we can’t spend endowment money when it’s received, but can only spend the income generated by the endowment donation.*

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q 15- What do presently receive through WeShare, our on-line giving system?**

*A 15- Donors can contribute toward many different things using WeShare. Donations through WeShare can be set up as one-time gifts or as recurring donations – recurring meaning you tell the system what you would like to give and the frequency for your donation, and it will automatically process that donation based upon what you've told it. Donors can designate their gift toward Sunday Giving, Holy Days, Debt Reduction, Deficit Reduction, the Bergan Fund, Maintenance and Repairs, our One Community/One Faith Campaign, among others. Many, many more donors are using on-line giving for their contributions. This actually is preferred by us because these funds flow directly into our bank accounts. The donations don't need to be sorted and counted, deposits of the loose cash and checks prepared and taken to the bank, etc. On-line giving is simpler and more efficient. Plus, especially in this time of our having public Masses but not all parishioners necessarily feeling fully comfortable yet coming to Mass because of their own health, they can still make a contribution without having to mail it to us or drop it off at the office.*

*We have about 250 families using recurring donations, and this is up from 146 last year. Sunday Giving through WeShare for the months of April and May was about \$36,500 per month.*

**Q 16- Have you considered eliminating health insurance for employees and replace with a stipend?**

*A 16- Based upon discussion with the Archdiocese, we are not allowed to do this. Further, even if we were allowed to do this, we feel that offering a group health insurance plan represents a significant benefit to our employees, and the lack of one would likely cause a material detriment to our ability to attract and retain qualified employees.*

**Q 17- Do we know how our cost per student compares with other local Catholic schools. Wahoo Neumann, West Point GACC, Norfolk Catholic, Scotus, etc?**

*A17- We do not know what cost per student is at these schools. This is not information that schools readily share publically. Knowing what the cost per student is for your institution helps you to set tuition rates and budget responsibly. It is useful information for the organization internally. In our previous town hall we stated that we spend over \$7,300 per student. Knowing the cost per student helps you to be fiscally responsible in expenses and having this information in front of now assists us in shifting our focus to increasing revenue.*

**Q 18- We've received a few questions about Archbishop Bergan's costs for a specific grade level or group of grade levels – such as specific costs for the Kindergarten through grade 6 and grades 7 through 12.**

*A 18- Unfortunately, the way in which our records are created and set-up does not allow for an easy allocation of Archbishop Bergan's costs between the three buildings (the ECEC, Elementary School and Middle/High School). There are a number of shared services such as maintenance, administration, some utilities, and supplies, as well as some shared personnel. As part of our process of setting tuition levels, we've provided the Finance Committee rough estimates of these cost breakdowns, but because there are rough estimates – estimates meant for internal purposes – we aren't comfortable publishing results based upon these internal rough computations.*

**Q 19- If a donor is trying to specifically make a donation to one entity or another, how can that donor ensure that their gift goes to their desired entity?**

*A 19- If someone wishes to make a donation specific to one entity or the other, to St. Patrick or to Archbishop Bergan Catholic School, the donation specifically goes into that entity's bank account. St. Patrick and Archbishop Bergan do not share bank accounts, so donations between the two are pretty clear and easy to identify.*

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q 20- Why is it stated that the school has a deficit and not the church when we are considered one?**

*A 20- St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School are two separate and distinct entities. They each have their own tax-identification numbers, bank accounts and books and records. Reporting of financial information to the Archdiocese is performed separately. So, when we look at financial results, we first look at each entity on a stand-alone basis, and this might be where this question stems from. However, as we've stated before, Archbishop Bergan is the single largest ministry of St. Patrick Catholic Church. As such, we present our financial information on a consolidated, or combined, basis because of this intricate union between the two entities. This is why, when Fr. Nolte sent out his communication letter before Easter, it said the "Parish and the School have been in a bad spot financial for the past several years." It did not say the School has an issue, or the Parish has an issue, but rather "WE" have an issue – both the Parish and the School combined have the issue.*

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Questions Answered in Virtual Town Hall on June 24, 2020**

**THE FOLLOWING ARE BLESSINGS THAT PEOPLE ARE THANKFUL FOR PROVIDED TO US WHEN THEY POSED THEIR QUESTIONS TO US....**

- Father Nolte, Father Mishek, Father Cremers
- We are so thankful for all that our leadership is doing in while dealing with the coronavirus crisis and the financial situation our parish and school are in.
- We appreciate the education our five children received at Bergan. They were taught to study, complete their assignments and were given all the tools they needed to complete their bachelors', masters' or doctorate degrees. Their education was also Christ-centered which has enabled all of them to remain loyal to their Catholic faith and are active in their parishes.
- St. Patrick's Parish gives us many opportunities to deepen our faith through bible studies, retreats, volunteering for special events, etc.
- When school is in session, we are grateful for the school Masses which allow the students to be active participants by greeting, being lectors, cantoring , being EMHCs and leading the prayers of the faithful. We appreciate all the efforts of St.Patrick's and Bergan's staff are doing to get us through our financial and COVID crisis.
- BERGAN faith-filled education, small class sizes and so many opportunities for our kids in a small, family atmosphere.
- Thankful we have such a nice church.
- Thankful that I was brought up Catholic and get to pray the rosary.
- Thankful that I was able to receive a Catholic education and my parents held me to a high standard.

**Q1- Is there any way we could charge an additional fee to people who want to take advantage of using our facilities and priests for their weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. when they do not contribute on an ongoing basis?**

*A1- The Catholic Church attempts to be welcoming to all people. Part of this hospitality includes treating all individuals with equality when they ask for services, sacraments and assistance from the Church. There is a fee in the form of rentals for certain services. To charge an additional fee for those that do not regularly contribute would be a discriminatory practice and would go against Catholic Social teachings. All are welcome are asked to contribute as best that they can.*

**Q2- In the last town hall we addressed a question about the ratio of students that attend Fremont Public vs. Archbishop Catholic School. This question asks... Have we researched the reasons they chose not to send them to a Christ-centered school? Has the Bergan board and parish council pondered this question?**

*A2- This is a very inquisitive question that we have pondered ourselves but never really received any feedback on. If you are a parish family that chooses not to send your children to Archbishop Bergan, please share your story with us. We are constantly looking at how to improve our school. It would be great if you could contact Bonnie Nebuda and share your reasons. Do not be surprised if someone from our Advancement Office reaches out to you if you are a Saint Patrick Parish family that sends your children to a different school. We would love to know why people would choose not to send their children to Archbishop Bergan Catholic. We look forward to your honest and enlightening responses. This would be great information to have in order to continue to improve our Parish school.*

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q3- In the original letter received and the first town hall meeting, one of the options listed to correct the deficit was to close one or both schools for 2021-22 school year. Is this really a consideration?**

*A3- In April we stated that we were going to hold a series of virtual town hall meetings using Facebook in order to help people to better understand the financial situation we are in. We are continuing to monitor our financial situation with the hope of accurately sharing results of year-end financial numbers, enrollment numbers and fundraising efforts in the fall of 2020. We hope to have an internal discussion as a parish and school to come to a decision on one of the three following options by November 1, 2020.*

- 1. Continue operating the school system with the same structure for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- 2. Close one of the school buildings for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- 3. Close both of the school buildings for the 2021-2022 school year.*

*Our hope would be that if a decision was made to close a building or buildings, a large contingency of financial support would take place in an effort to keep the building(s) open. As a final measure, we would have to have a final decision, made with Archbishop Lucas's blessing, by January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021.*

*I know that **Father Nolte** has some additional information he would like to add to this question.*

**Q4- Are our new parishioners helping us out financially? Are all parishioners helping us out with church duties?**

*A4- Saint Patrick Parish has a wonderful opportunity to add new families as registered Parishioners each month. These parishioners come from many different backgrounds and life experiences. We are blessed to have active, diverse and passionate parishioners here in Fremont. Through our Stewardship efforts we invite all parishioners, new and longtime members to tithe to the church through giving their time, talent & treasure. Our goal into the future is to offer more opportunities for all parishioners to share the gifts that God has given them with our parish. With the expertise of staff members in the Advancement Office, we look forward to capturing the ability for all parishioners to feel engaged and active in all aspects of Church life.*

**Q5- Will the buildings be able to hire back their para educators for the upcoming school year?**

*A5- No. Operating on a limited expense reduction model and budget for the coming school year. We are attempting to be as fiscally responsible as possible in operating the Archbishop Bergan Catholic School budget.*

**Q6- Are we starting school using the original calendar that was published during last school year?**

*A6- Yes! Please be aware that throughout the summer you will receive various communications from the school in preparation for the start of school on August 10, 2020. Student Packets will be available for you to pick up beginning Monday August 6<sup>th</sup> at the school office in the building that your oldest child will be attending. These packets include important information in relation to the textbook loan program, student insurance, school pictures, student health physicals, Bergan booster club, free/reduced lunch and elementary teacher assignments.*

*Please log into Sycamore after Monday August 6<sup>th</sup> to verify your and your students' information. New families will receive and email invitation with your Sycamore log-in information.*

*If you have any questions please call us at the Elementary School at 402-721-9766 or the Middle/High School at 402-721-9683 during the hours of 8:00AM to 1:00PM. Many of your questions can also be answered by visiting our website at [www.berganknights.org](http://www.berganknights.org). Please keep up with Bergan happenings on our Facebook and Twitter accounts which are linked on our website. Also, please be checking Sycamore regarding your tuition information and contact the Finance Office at 402-721-6611 if you have any questions.*

**St. Patrick Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan Catholic School  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q7- What will the Saint Patrick Parish Festival look like this year?**

A7- The 2020 St. Patrick Parish Festival will look a little different this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, we have re-scheduled it to the weekend of August 22 & 23, 2020. We are thinking of it as a scaled back, simplified version.

Planning an event in the middle of a pandemic while following safety plans and having several contingencies plans is something new for all of us.

We still plan to end the 2020 Festival with the drawing of the Car raffle. The car is generously donated by the Diers dealership. Right now, we plan to allow people to attend the drawing in person, in addition to; we will stream it live allowing all Parishioners can participate.

Where can I turn my Festival raffle tickets in at? Festival raffle tickets can be dropped into the mail slot at the Parish Office or placed into the collection basket at Church.

It is our goal to sell 20,000 tickets.

Will there be food? Games? Inflatables? Music?

Food - We plan to have food, with the availability of to-go's and curbside pick up for those who don't want to stay. We are considering early ordering options for those who plan to pick their food up so they can reserve their time slot.

Games - at this time we do not plan for any traditional carnival games because of the need for disinfecting. We are working on plans for some games virtually.

Inflatables - with social distancing recommendations, we are not planning for inflatables this year.

Music - We plan to have some music available.

Where is it going to be? The Festival will be held at the St. Patrick Catholic Church at 3400 East 16th St.

What can I do to help? If you're interested in any of the following areas, please contact Bonnie Nebuda, Director of Advancement at 402-721-1846 or by email at [bonnie.nebuda@berganknights.org](mailto:bonnie.nebuda@berganknights.org) or Janie McGrew, Festival Chair by email at [jmcgrew@stpatsfremont.org](mailto:jmcgrew@stpatsfremont.org).

We need help with the Food Committee, Marketing/Communications, Logistics, Music/Entertainment and the Virtual Game Committees.

With your help and prayers we can make this Festival happen!