Welcome! We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Whether you are just visiting or looking for a parish home, it’s great to have you with us. Whatever your current life circumstances—single, married, single again, with children or without—and wherever you have been or whatever has happened in your life, you are welcome at St. Pascal’s. Please join us in Brioschi Hall after Mass for hospitality and to find out more.

May 6, 2018 | Sixth Sunday of Easter
Dear Friends:

Recently a few of our parish staff members were able to enjoy a luncheon at the University of St. Thomas in order to learn from one of the leading researchers of CARA (Center for Applied Research of the Apostolate) about some of the big demographical trends in the Catholic Church today. CARA is one of the most sophisticated organizations for providing large-scale data on the U.S. church, affiliated with Georgetown University and often utilized by the U.S. Catholic bishops. It felt like a flood of information, and I wasn't much surprised by it, but perhaps you'd be interested in hearing about some of the mega-movements in Catholicism—by the numbers—over the past few decades. So here goes.

Catholics comprise roughly one quarter of the population of the United States, or approximately 104 million people. That's remained about steady in recent years. But where the Catholics live has shifted very much. We no longer are to be found predominantly in the Northeast and Upper Midwest, but we are on the move to the South and West. And Catholics now live largely in the suburbs, as opposed to the cities and farms where they were to found a couple of generations ago. Instead of working primarily in manufacturing and agriculture, Catholics today are employed more in fields of technology. We are also increasingly a culturally diverse church, again not much of a surprise. Immigration continues to shape the look of the church in the U.S., but today the immigrants are primarily from places other than Europe. In 2016 our church was constituted by 41% Latino/Hispanic people, 52% white, 7% "other," including 4% African and 3% Asian. The Catholic church in Minnesota is not typical of what is going on across the country. Here, at least for the moment, we are far more white than the general American Catholic population.

There is also a notable decrease in the participation of Catholics in the sacraments, continuing a trend that began long ago. In the Midwest today about 22% of Catholics attend mass at least weekly, 44% attend at least monthly, and 31% say that they attend "rarely or never." There is a marked reduction in the number of infant baptisms, down by 25% between 2005 and 2015. During the same period there was a decrease in Confirmations by 20%, Marriages in church by 32%, and church funerals by 14%. Believe it or not, despite these numbers the Catholics are doing better in holding on to church affiliation than many mainline Protestant denominations are.

Another focus of CARA's research was in the profile of the people who provide ministry in Catholic churches. Again, I found little of the information to be very surprising but the raw numbers are interesting. The greatest impact, perhaps, has been the change in the number of priests and permanent deacons in the last four decades. We ordain roughly half the number of priests each year that we did in 1975. And if the year 1970 is taken as the base line, we need to be ordaining between two and three times the number of priests each year that we are in order for us to compensate for the effect of retirement and death. In the year 1960, nationally, the average parish had 1.8 priests. Today the number is .97—again, almost half. The ratio of Catholics per priest in 1942 was 621. In 2012 it was 1700, demonstrating again that the church of the baby boomers was really abnormal in terms of the number of priestly vocations. What many of us grew up thinking as "the way things always have been" was never the case.

The number of lay professionals working in parishes has exploded during the same period. Because of the demographic shifts of Catholics that I mentioned above, we now have fewer but much bigger parishes. St. Pascal's is about in the

Continued on page 3...
School News

Schulze Early Learning Scholarship Program
The Schulze Family Foundation has created the Schulze Early Learning Scholarship Program to assist middle-income families in gaining access to excellent preschool programs for their children. The Foundation firmly believes in and supports the strength of the academic experience, the caring community and the spiritual development that is provided by the Catholic elementary schools. Scholarships will be awarded ranging from $500 to $3000 and will be sent directly to the preschool to pay for tuition.

You are eligible to apply if:
Your child:
• Will be attending a Catholic preschool at an eligible preschool AND
• Will be in their last year of preschool and attending kindergarten the following year
Your family:
• Is a middle-income family
• Needs this scholarship to be able to enroll your child in a Catholic preschool

Go online to schulzefamilyfoundation.org for the Schulze Early Learning Scholarship application and click on Early Learning Scholarships. If you have questions, please contact Marla Friederichs at 952.324.8933 or mjfriederichs@schulzefamilyfoundation.org

Fund-A-Need Thank You
"Thank you" to everyone who donated toward the new preschool playground at our Friends & Family Event last month. We raised $99,999 towards the purchase of age and developmentally appropriate equipment for our preschool children. Construction will begin later this spring.

The St. Pascal’s Men’s Club Events
Volunteer/Installation Social
Friday, May 11 at 5:30 PM in Brioschi Hall
Dinner to be served at 6:00 with Installation of Officers and Hall of Fame induction program to follow. Door Prizes awarded throughout the evening. All members, volunteers, and spouses or significant others are invited.
Questions? Please contact Richard Hoffman at 651.774.0892 (H) or 612.554.6579 (M).

Senior Plant Bingo
Saturday, May 19 at 1:00 PM in Brioschi Hall
Bingo winners will have the opportunity to select a beautiful potted plant and all will have a chance to win a large flowered basket in the final Cover-All game. Admission is FREE and refreshments will be served during intermission.
Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 16 by calling Betty Hensel at 714.8958.

Faith Formation

Shipwrecked—Rescued by Jesus Vacation Bible School 2018
June 25-29 from 9:00 AM - 12 Noon
At Shipwrecked, kids discover that Jesus rescues them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God’s love, and test out ScienCy-Fun Gizmos they’ll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with the Sail Away Sendoff that gets everyone involved in living what they’ve learned.
Registration materials are available in kiosks, parish office, and online at www.stpascals.org. Help is needed in all areas! Contact Kim in the parish office.

Parish Office
Contact Information
Parish Office 651.774.1585
Fax 651.774.9152
Email church@stpascals.org
After hours emergency number (for death, dying or anointing of the sick 651.280.9239

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:00 - 4:00 PM
Holidays as announced

School
Contact Information
School Office 651.776.0092
Fax 651.774.9152
Email: laurie.jennrich@stpascals.org

School Office Hours
September – June
Mon - Fri 8:00 - 4:00 PM

Parish Councils
Parish Pastoral Council
Ann Karner, Chair
Meetings - 1ST Tuesday at 6:30 PM

Parish Finance Council
Cindy Reisdorf
Meetings - 4TH Thursday at 6:30 PM

Sacramental Information
Reconciliation
Saturday at 4:00 and by appointment

Baptism
Pre-baptismal classes are required.
To register for classes or to schedule a celebration, call the parish office.

Marriage
Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least six months in advance of the desired date.

Parish Prayer Line
8:00 - 10:00 AM 651.735.0004
Mary Butler-Levine
4:00 - 6:00 PM 651.774.3248
Pat Kackman

Parish Communication
Bulletin Notices
Please email notices to the parish office by 3:00 PM Monday—hard copy notices must be in by 2:00 PM.
Email to thea.munoz@stpascals.org.
Bulletin inserts are limited to 3 inserts per weekend and are included at the discretion of the pastor.

Mass Announcements
Direct to Sharon Balcom by 3:00 PM on Wednesday.

middle of a typically-sized parish community. And when people surveyed were asked what was most important to them in choosing to attach themselves to a parish, the overwhelming (like more than 90%) majority identified a welcoming spirit, good liturgy, and good preaching, in that order.

So there you have it. There’s much that could be said about how to regard all this data. Is it encouraging? Threatening? Hopeful? Disappointing? That conversation is for another day, because I’m out of space this week.

Fr. Mike Byron
Heart Questions

Love of Your Neighbor

Jesus said, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 15:12

Adults: How is love of others connected to love for God?

Kids: Who needs Jesus’ love this week? How can you show them his love?

Eucharistic Ministers: Summer Schedule

It is time for the next schedule to be done. Please check your calendars for June, July, and August, and let Joann know of any dates when you will not be available. She needs those dates by May 15. If you have questions or want more information you may call Joann at 735.2762, or e-mail at joann.bertini@gmail.com.

Stewardship of Treasure

Financial Gifts – March 2018
For fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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Sunday, May 6

Ps 98:1-4
1 Jn 4:7-10
Jn 15:9-17

Monday, May 7

Acts 16:11-15
Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b
Jn 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, May 8

Acts 16:22-34
Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8
Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 9

Acts 17:15, 22–18:1
Ps 148:1-2, 11-14
Jn 16:12-15

Thursday, May 10

Acts 18:1-8
Ps 98:1-4
Jn 16:16-20

Friday, May 11

Acts 18:9-18
Ps 47:2-7
Jn 16:20-23

Saturday, May 12

Acts 18:23-28
Ps 47:2-3, 8-10
Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday, May 13

The Ascension
Acts 1:1-11
Ps 47:2-3, 6-9
Eph 1:17-23
Mk 16:15-20

The Week Ahead

Visit us at www.stpascals.org for more information on upcoming events.

Sunday, May 6—EASTER 6
After Masses: KC Tootsie Roll Drive
12:00pm Confirmation I: OC

Monday, May 7
9:30am Daniela Dances: OC
7:00pm Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym & 108

Tuesday, May 8
2:00pm Spring Band Concert: OC
6:00pm Women’s Club Board Meeting: FR
6:00pm Spring Band Concert: OC
6:30pm Pastoral Council: SL

Wednesday, May 9—Saturday, May 12
7th -8th Grade trip to Washington D. C.

Wednesday, May 9
7:30am School Board: FR
9:00am Rosary: CH
9:30am School Mass—All are welcome!
10:30am Peaceful Presence Prayer Group: Chapel
6:30pm Catechist Meeting: SL
7:00pm Parish-wide Meeting: BH
7:30pm Men’s Club Softball: CF

Thursday, May 10
9:30am Daniela Dances: OC
10:00am AFF How to Read the Bible: BH
7:00pm AFF How to Read the Bible: BH

Friday, May 11
5:30pm Men’s Club Installation/Volunteer Social: BH, Kit

Saturday, May 12
No scheduled events

Sunday, May 13—THE ASCENSION

Mother’s Day
After Masses: New Member Registration: BH
2:00pm Girl Scouts: CF

Meeting Location Key:

BH: Brioscchi Hall, CF: Cafeteria, CH: Church, CR: Choir Room
FR: Founders Room, OC: Old Church, SL: Staff Lounge

For more event information, visit us at www.stpascals.org. Like and follow our Facebook page: St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church.

Free Subscriptions to The Catholic Spirit
If you would like to receive a complimentary subscription to the archdiocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, delivered to you home twice a month, please fill out the form below and return it to the parish office or drop in the collection basket at Mass. You can also contact Marla in the parish office directly at 774.1585.

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You must be a registered parishes of St. Pascal’s to receive this offer.

For more event information, visit us at www.stpascals.org. Like and follow our Facebook page: St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church.

Love

O God, you are the source of all love and we joyfully lift our voices in song to give you praise for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who gave his life so that we might live. Help us turn away from the slavery of sin and embrace your Word, who calls us to love one another. Grant that, with hearts filled with compassion, we may courageously lay aside our needs and work to promote peace and justice throughout the world. Keep us faithful to our baptismal covenant so that we may reveal your saving power and be found on that final day praising your blessed name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Love One Another
THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 7
St. Lydia
The First Reading tells of the conversion of Lydia. She was a dealer of purple cloth, which was expensive. She encounters Paul and Timothy outside the city gates and by God’s grace, her heart was opened to receive the Good News. This encounter with the Word moved her to receive Baptism along with her household. The hospitality she provides is the same care we are called to offer our neighbors. Spend fifteen minutes listening to the Lord in silence today. Today’s Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b – 2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b; John 15:26—16:4a.

Tuesday, May 8
The Jailer
The reading from Acts provides another account of conversion. After an earthquake opened the door of the cell, the jailer was amazed that the prisoners remained. What moved the jailer to seek the Lord? When the Word of God resonates in our hearts, it shakes with joy and yearns to be in communion with the living God. Paul and Silas teach that belief in God saves. Do you experience daily conversion? Today, pray for those imprisoned in any way. Today’s Readings: Acts 16:22 – 34; Psalm 138:1– 2ab, 2cde – 3, 7c – 8; John 16:5–11.

Wednesday, May 9
Mighty and Strong
Is your heart alive with the joy of the Resurrection? Today’s Psalm places upon our lips words of praise. Recall the Easter Vigil and the signs and symbols. Christ has truly conquered sin and death, and by his Resurrection, restored all life. We have much to be grateful for and much to share. Join with all of creation and sing your praise to God, who is mighty and strong. How can you spend time expressing praise? Can you do this through drawing, baking, gardening, poetry, or writing in your journal? Today’s Readings: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.

Thursday, May 10
The Ascension of the Lord

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter
The First Reading introduces us to a married missionary couple: Aquila and Priscilla, who lived and worked with Paul. The little we know about the couple tells us they were strong pillars in their community and great teachers of the faith. Today, pray for all catechists. Today’s Readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.

Friday, May 11
Shake with Joy
A line in the Exsultet, the proclamation the deacon sings at the Easter Vigil, states, “let his holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.” These words are so vivid they nearly bring about a tangible vision. The joy of Christ’s triumph over death fills the whole Church and should “shake” our hearts with joy. Allow the love of Christ to capture your being. Today’s Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.

Saturday, May 12
Sing
Knowing that God loves you and fills you with joy, lift your voice in song as you sing (even make up a melody) Psalm 47 for your prayer. Today’s Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.
April 30, 2018

Dear Friends:

Following our recent monthly parish Finance Council meeting, I have been asked to clarify a few things regarding the condition of our parish and school. Apparently, there is some uncertainty among us about how well we are doing in funding our operations, and I am happy to do my best to communicate our situation. Before getting to a few specifics, however, my first wish is to say thank you for your continued extraordinary generosity in supporting this community financially. Because of that goodness, we are in better shape now than we have been in a very long time. Please continue that generosity!

Now to a few particular questions...

- **How is the financial condition of the school?** It’s the best it’s been in years—for now. This is the first time I’ve been able to assure you that we not only have the resources for the current year but also for next year’s operations. Our School Board has worked extraordinarily hard this year to secure operating revenue for the next fifteen months, and I am grateful. A very substantial amount of that revenue—much of it unexpected—was received within the past ninety days.

- **Why do the numbers in the parish bulletin financial reports seem to fluctuate so much in reporting parish and school income relative to budget?** There are two different answers to that question. With the school the month-to-month expenses can vary, and income from tuition and other sources tends to come in large chunks at certain times of the year. For the moment it appears that we are enjoying a significant cash surplus in the school. That is both true and misleading, because we have already realized the majority of our income for the year but we will have large expenses for the next two months. Expect that number to remain positive but to decrease significantly before the fiscal year ends on June 30. As for the parish operations, we really are in good shape for the current year, both for regular expenses and for the mortgage. We should end up with a modest surplus at the end of the year, again thanks to you. Pray for no unanticipated building maintenance problems!

- **What about the mortgage?** It remains an enormous constraint on our finances, with a balance of roughly $3.8 million. But we are in very good shape with our ability to make our monthly payments. In fact, the Finance Council this month authorized an extraordinary principle reduction payment to the bank of $20,000 for each of the next few months because we believe we have enough of a cash cushion on hand to do that. This extra payment comes from money already in our mortgage account. Every principle reduction payment now will save us a good deal of interest expense in the long run. And we still have a very long run ahead.

- **Do we need an external audit of our financial procedures?** Absolutely yes. It’s long overdue. We haven’t had a full-blown audit since before my time at St. Pascal’s, and the reason is that we haven’t had the money to afford one, but I think we now do. A full audit costs well in excess of...
$10,000. The expense for an audit is being included in the proposed budget for the coming year. Financial tracking and reporting has become more complex since we have been trying to segregate the parish from the school in that regard. In the end, however, this is a very necessary transition in our accounting so that we can know exactly which revenues and expenses are attributable to which parts of our operation. I am already seeking counsel for how best to choose an auditor.

I hope that this brief update will answer some questions that may be floating around. If there are others that I have not addressed here, please feel free to ask me, or our Business Administrator Theresa Ruttger, or any member of the Finance Council about this.

I will end this letter as I began it, with a huge thank you.

Fr. Mike Byron, Your Pastor
Twins Tickets
for Sale
$5 each
Sunday, August 26, 2018
1:10 PM Game
Minnesota Twins vs. Oakland Athletics
Sections 329 and 330
Tickets can be purchased at the church office.
Contact - Theresa Ruttger (651)774-1585

These Tickets are part of the Friend and Family Event.
Buy a ticket - support St Pascal’s and help grow our community!
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