



# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

## *A Farewell*

### *to Msgr. Dale Leo Wellman*

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**I**n 50 full and busy years of ministering to the people of God, Msgr. Dale L. Wellman has given most generously of his time and talent. Five previous parishes have been home to Monsignor before his arrival at Sacred Heart. For the people of Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. John's, the newly ordained Fr. Wellman served as a capable assistant to their pastors. To the people of St. Anthony's, St. Patrick's, St. Ambrose and Sacred Heart, he has been their shepherd, their pastor.

***Looking back to*** the beginning, Fr. Wellman was 25 years of age with a new degree in philosophy from St. Paul Seminary when he arrived at his first assignment in the town of Galesburg, Ill.

The parish itself, Immaculate Heart of Mary, had been in existence for only eight years. The parish church was a chapel in the building, which was built for – and today still houses – the parish grade school. It served as the temporary church for more than 20 years, including Fr. Wellman's time there.

He remembers with a laugh the day he arrived at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish. The pastor happened to be taking the day off and the other assistant was also gone. Fr. Wellman was standing there in the middle of a place he knew nothing about, and all that the jovial pastor directed back over his shoulder as he departed was, "If you get a



good price, sell!" That was in June 1964. Father settled easily into parish life, making Immaculate Heart of Mary his home for the next four years.

***Father's second assignment*** was to an older parish, St. John, in Peoria, Ill. He was transferred there in 1968 and served until 1972. St. John Church was founded in 1880. The parish has since been closed, and the buildings have been demolished.

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## St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome

*As we bid farewell to Msgr. Wellman, we take this opportunity to remember an important figure in Church history – St. Leo the Great, the pope who was unwavering in his defense of Catholic doctrine and the protection of his people. Monsignor’s birthday, Nov. 10, is also the feast day of St. Leo the Great. Thus, it is a wonderful time to reflect upon those who have shown great commitment and love in leading their flock, both in the history of the Catholic Church and here in our own parish.*

Regarded as one of the best administrators of the ancient Church, St. Leo the Great displayed tireless dedication as pope. From securing true Christian beliefs and settling doctrinal controversies as a Doctor of the Church, to defending Rome against barbarian attack and his commitment to the spiritually centered pastoral care of his people, St. Leo the Great provides a wonderful – and historically significant – example of a Church administrator who used his skills to reinforce the essential connections between spirit and structure. This resolute upholding of the faith earned him the title of “the Great,” a distinction only bestowed on one other pope, Gregory I. Indeed, Leo himself held that everything he did as pope was to represent St. Peter, in whose place he

acted, and to represent Christ, the head of the Mystical Body.

A native of Tuscany, Leo was believed to have been born around the year 400. The earliest known information about Leo is that he was a deacon under Pope Celestine I and Pope Sixtus III. During his time as a deacon, he was already recognized for his skills in mediation when the emperor designated him with the task of settling a dispute between the two highest officials in Gaul.

In the year 440, upon the death of Pope Sixtus III, Leo was unanimously elected by the people as the pope’s successor. Just weeks later, Pope Leo I would enter upon a pontificate lasting 21 years. This timespan would prove to be a crucial era for the centralization of the government in the Roman Church. Importantly, Leo’s recorded papal letters and sermons have survived through the centuries, thereby providing key historical sources regarding his career and personality. In fact, his particular prose style – *cursus leonicus* – would have a lasting impact on ecclesiastical language.

One of Leo’s primary aims as pope was to sustain the unity of the Church – he was particularly devoted to combating the heresies that threatened this unity. He was also a tireless champion of almsgiving, fasting and prayer, while clearly and concisely expounding

Catholic doctrine. Leo put much of what he said and wrote into action as well, inviting and encouraging bishops to meet and consult with him in person. These committed efforts took place largely in the shadow of the Western Empire’s approaching collapse, and Leo would serve as a steadfast representative of lawful authority during this turbulent era.

Indeed, a crucial point of Leo’s papacy occurred during the invasion of Italy in 452. As Attila and his forces made their way to Rome, having already overrun several cities, the ruler of the Huns demanded a dowry from the reigning emperor. In response, three envoys were sent to negotiate with Attila, one of whom was Pope Leo I. While the exact nature of the envoys’ negotiations with Attila are not known, historians often credit Leo with compelling Attila to withdraw from invading Rome. And while the Vandals would sack the city of Rome just three years later, it’s believed that Leo’s assertiveness and influence helped to repress murder and bloodshed during that invasion as well.

As he maintained faith and courage in the face of these violent challenges, Leo continually worked to address the everyday needs, concerns and interests of his people. He died in 461, most probably on Nov. 10 – a date which is celebrated in the Catholic Church as the feast day of St. Leo the Great.

## A Letter From Our Pastor

# A Joyful and Rewarding Experience

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is my final letter as pastor of Sacred Heart. The past 13 years have been very rewarding for me. It was a time to come home to Moline and complete my sojourn in priestly minister as an active priest – soon I assume the status of “pastor emeritus.” It only means that I will not have the responsibility of making and meeting budgets and going to meetings. I have jokingly said that all I have to do is worry that the check that I am given for helping out does not bounce when I go to cash it.

I will retire to the country and live in my sister’s former home in Port Byron, Ill. I already have a few chickens and ducks to add to my fish pond and garden to care for. I hope that I will have a better garden this year since I should be around to keep ahead of the weeds. Last year was the best year I had in that regard. I have already planted some potatoes and a couple of pecan trees. They go with my pear, peach and cherry trees. I also have a couple of grape vines to round out the fruit selection.

The only thing about moving is that you have to pack up all your belongings, and then when you arrive to where you are going, to unpack and find a place for all that you packed. I have never unpacked all the stuff I packed when I moved from St. Ambrose to Sacred Heart. Who knows what I may find in those unpacked boxes. Someone once told me that I should have a moving sale. I pointed to an object, and the person told me that I could not sell that because that is



what they had given to me. So it is packed away in a box.

It has been a joyful and rewarding experience to have been pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. I have met many wonderful people. I once was told, about the people of Sacred Heart, that you could hear the buffalo scream as you pulled the nickel out of their hands. That is not true. You have shared your time, talent and treasure to preserve the treasures of Sacred Heart Parish. I leave the parish with fond memories that I will cherish forever.

I am sure your new pastor, Fr. Mark DeSutter, will be happy here and you will welcome him warmly. Unlike me, he is a Belgian. He was raised in Kewanee, Ill. and ordained in 1982. He comes here from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Morton, Ill. Give him a warm welcome.

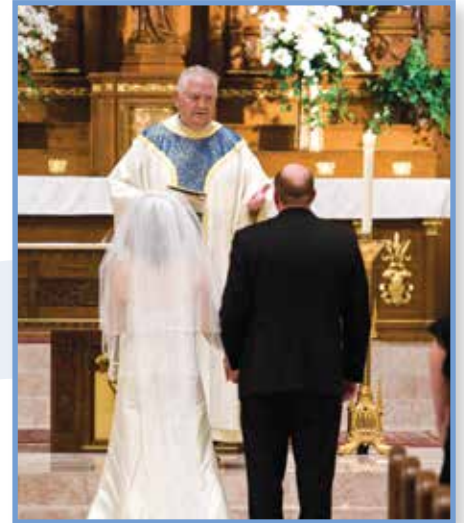
Keep me in your prayers, and I promise to keep you in my prayers and Masses that I will continue to offer. God bless you and thanks for the memories.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Dale L. Wellman, Pastor

## Msgr. Dale Leo Wellman *continued from front cover*

**When Fr. Wellman** arrived at St. John as a young assistant 46 years ago, he was charged with rescuing the parish school. It was a poor, drab school, and most of the children who attended came from broken homes. He set about turning it around, livening it with fresh brightly colored paint, and also setting up a government-sponsored hot lunch program. Below-grade reading levels rose, motivated by his system of allowing individuals to sit in with the class grade equivalent to their reading level. Their success, Monsignor is proud to say, carried on into high school.



**A year into** his assignment at St. John, he also became chaplain at nearby Peoria State Hospital, saying a weekly Mass in the auditorium for its personnel. Meanwhile, the bishop gave permission for an aspiring group of nearby families in the community to form a mission parish using the hospital auditorium and its weekly Mass as their base. They numbered about 25 families and became known as St. Anthony's. Father's task over the next two years was to then administer the start-up of a new independent parish from that mission.



**St. Anthony Parish** was developed on a spacious 10-acre tract of land in nearby Bartonville, Ill. At the church's opening in 1974, Fr. Wellman became the first pastor for 140 members of the then-newest parish in the diocese. In addition to a rectory, he oversaw the construction of St. Anthony's original facility, a multipurpose worship center whose main hall served as the church sanctuary, but whose seating could be reconfigured for meetings, dinners and class space. Since those days, the parish has erected a permanent church building and the original all-purpose center is devoted fully to religious education classes and meetings.

Meanwhile, Fr. Wellman's pastoral work was expanded during the same time period to include moderating the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. He was assigned as their moderator in 1974, and he holds that position to this day, marking his dedication to the DCCW of some 40 years! Of this journey, he says, "It has been rewarding!"

**With a long** and illustrious history, St. Patrick's is the oldest parish in the Peoria Diocese. Established in 1838, it was the first parish established between Chicago and St. Louis. Its original territory covered a great part of the far-flung Chicago Diocese long before the Peoria Diocese and St. Patrick's Parish were sectioned out of it. Fr. Wellman arrived there in 1983, the first diocesan priest pastor following 144 years of leadership by Vincentian order priests. He arrived at St. Patrick's when the parish was anticipating celebration of its 150th Anniversary. St. Patrick's had originated in a log cabin before the stone church was completed in 1851. The new pastor and his parishioners



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# Msgr. Dale Leo Wellman *continued from page 4*

undertook an extensive project to restore the stone church back to the way it had looked at the turn of the century, as well as to re-open the closed rectory adjacent to it. Pastor and parishioners worked side by side to bring the sturdy rectory back to life, even removing a dysfunctional top floor. Improvements to the physical plant continued, along with a flourish of new life as many programs and parish groups began to grow.

***The move in*** 1990 to St. Ambrose in Milan brought Fr. Wellman back to the general area of his childhood. Three years into his pastorate at St. Ambrose, he became Monsignor Wellman, with the new title of Prelate of Honor bestowed by then-pope St. John Paul II at the recommendation of Bishop Meyers. The seventh pastor of St. Anthony's, Msgr. Wellman served that parish community – which he fondly remembers as “good people” – for 11 years until his transfer in 2001.



***In his lengthiest*** pastorate, Monsignor has celebrated his 40th, 45th, and now his 50th anniversary of ordination with the people of Sacred Heart Parish, as well as celebrating the parish's own jubilant 100th anniversary of its founding. Here, he again launched into the monumental task of guiding a parish through its needed preparatory renovation of its church building before a big celebration.

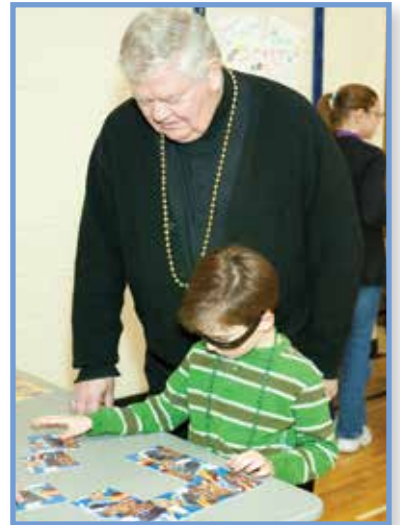
Through his guidance, Monsignor has always sought to instill a sense of ownership in the people of his parishes, in areas where volunteerism was previously wanting and people were used to everything being done by the religious community. And so it has been with Sacred Heart. Msgr. Wellman has said, “It's your parish, and you have to take ownership – I'm just kind of one of the directors now. So you have to take ownership of it and build a vision and response” for both the present and the future. At Sacred

Heart, he now sees many committees involved and working together to do that. He has praised Sacred Heart's efforts to reach out to others, and people's love for and dedication to the parish, as well as tremendous love for the school and Catholic education.

In addition to his pastorate here, Msgr. Wellman became Vicar of the Rock Island Vicariate in 2004.

Monsignor is a 45-year member of the Knights of Columbus, and that organization has honored him for outstanding service to the Knights, church and community. At the diocesan level, he has served many years on the College of Consultors diocesan advisory body and on numerous and varied boards and commissions.

Of Msgr. Wellman, we can definitely repeat an ages-old English couplet, “...*Christes lore and his apostles twelve he taught, but first he followed it himself.*”



## Reflections on Msgr. Wellman "A Friend, a Shepherd, and a Steward"

*By Connie Morris, Stewardship Committee Chair/Parish Trustee*

**M**y first memory of Msgr. Wellman was at our Welcome Reception shortly after arriving at our parish. Being the center of attention in a crowd like that is not his favorite thing to do, but yet he was there smiling uncomfortably and introducing himself to parishioners, all the while hoping it would end soon. Then the reception was over, and there were only a few of us still there to clean up – we then got to see the relaxed Msgr. Wellman. All I can say is, "What a hoot!" He started telling stories and some jokes, and everyone seemed to be enjoying each other. I know it took a while before we actually started cleaning up that afternoon. No one wanted to stop – we just all sat around a table as if we were all family in someone's kitchen.

Another special memory of mine is after Sept. 11, 2001. What a sad time for our country. Monsignor felt the pain along with the rest of us, and he knew that we all needed help getting through those hours and days. So on Wednesday evening, Monsignor held a prayer service and helped us to begin to heal. He brought us back to our faith and was a true shepherd. But then, he has always been a shepherd to his parish. When Mass or another service would be over, my mom would look towards the altar and say, "There goes a holy man." He has always led with his faith, always.

One comment that I remember Monsignor telling us at one of the Parish Council meetings is that he is not only the

shepherd of the members of our parish, but he is the shepherd to the community surrounding our parish. Whether these members of the community were Catholic or not, they are still part of his flock to whom he ministers. He has never limited his love, prayers and leadership to our parish family. I especially like that he fixed the bells in our church tower – and now the bells call the neighborhood to join us at daily Mass.

Monsignor honored me in 2006 and asked me to succeed my daddy as trustee of Sacred Heart Parish. And I believe that is when I truly began knowing Monsignor more as a person and began a friendship with him. He had been my pastor for five years, and we were friendly with each other, but as his trustee, I have been honored to get to know Monsignor as a person, not just a pastor. I am sorry it took me so long. I had no idea of what I was missing.

I have been able to witness his wisdom firsthand. He is continually teaching me to not judge people. Msgr. Wellman seems to not even notice all those little things that seem to "bug" the rest of us. He does not "sweat the small stuff," and helps us to remember what is really important.

Monsignor has taught me what it means to be a good steward in my faith and to our parish. I remember him calling Fred Julius and I together and saying he wanted our parish to grow as a stewardship parish, and what should we do to get that started. We



*Connie Morris*

started meeting weekly with Deacon Denny and Suzie Budde to figure out how to get started. It was important to Monsignor that we all understood, along with the parishioners, that this was not about money. It has always been, for Monsignor, about helping the parishioners to grow closer to our God and becoming stronger in our faith.

This is what I have enjoyed about Monsignor's homilies. He always seems to find a stewardship message to share, sometimes with obvious stewardship comments, but often just by teaching us what it means to be a steward. He has inspired me to grow a better prayer life and has made me want to join the Bible studies so I could learn and understand even more about our faith. Monsignor's stewardship is definitely infectious.

I will miss Monsignor's sense of humor and smile, along with his quiet guidance as we work together for our parish.

# The Paschal Candles at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart's Paschal candles are uniquely special, as they have been hand-crafted by our very own pastor, Msgr. Wellman. He has done this for his churches for the past 40 years. The idea came from reading a liturgical magazine article back in the mid-1970s, when he was an assistant at St. John's in Peoria. During each Holy Week since then, he has headed out to the rectory garage, along with the necessary tools and supplies – a five-foot PVC pipe, a spool of candle wicking, and a large kettle of hot wax from melting down the previous year's used church candles. He then molds a pristine towering white candle, hand decorates it with relevant artwork, and carries it to the sanctuary to be lit during the Easter season and for baptisms and funerals. Throughout the year, its permanent placement is to the side of the baptismal font. We don't know of another priest who makes his own Easter candles, nor other churches besides those pastored by Msgr. Wellman that have benefited from such, at least not in the

Diocese of Peoria.

We have been privileged!



## Reflections on Msgr. Wellman "A Holy, Faith-Filled and Dedicated Priest"

By Jim Harl, Finance Council Chairman

When I first met Monsignor, it was apparent that his style was not that of his predecessor. For the first few months I struggled with his different approach when engaging others. As time moved on, I grew to appreciate his quiet, unassuming leadership. That difference helped reaffirm in me the need to accept the uniqueness each parishioner brings our parish community.

A few years ago, I was attending a parish Finance Council meeting. During that meeting, there was a spirited debate over the lack of financial contributions from some parishioners. One person noted in frustration, "If a person does not contribute to the parish, how can we consider them a parish member?" Monsignor, very deliberately and with great conviction stated, "While I am pastor, we will never place a lower value on any member of this parish because of their financial contribution." At that moment, everyone in the room realized Monsignor had just reaffirmed what was truly important.

At another Finance Council meeting, we were debating how to balance the parish budget given lower Sunday collections. Monsignor listened for a while then reminded us that the parishioners of Sacred Heart built the church building when no one believed



they could afford it. They then added on during one of the worst economic downturns in that era. While his comments did change the budget, it renewed our spirit to press on and with the faith that our parish would provide for our needs.

A few years ago, I was hospitalized for a few days. Each day, Monsignor would make his hospital visit to call upon those patients who indicated they were a member of our parish. One afternoon, when he stopped to visit me, he told of a woman he had visited who indicated she was from Sacred Heart. When he entered her room, she asked who he was. Given he had been the pastor of Sacred Heart for some time, it was obvious that she had not been to Mass at Sacred Heart for several years. I asked how he handled that awkward moment. He replied, "I told her

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Jim Harl

I have grown to understand that Monsignor says very little, *listens a great deal* and thinks about *all aspects* when making a key decision. Position, power or money will not influence him. He is guided by a simple question – *what is good for the entire parish?*



## Reflections on Monsignor *continued from page 8*

I was her pastor and proceeded to pray with her like I did every parishioner I visit.”

I will always remember Monsignor as one who was a scholar of our faith. He is a priest who has tremendous command of church history, a deep understanding of the Bible, and clarity on what our faith teaches us. While he may not be a dynamic orator, his sermons always bring me back to the center of my faith.

I am always struck by the image of Monsignor walking with his dog, Sam. You see Monsignor, who possesses this large frame, being followed by this small, loyal dog. It is clear there is a tremendous bond between them. That image reminds me of Christ attending to his flock.

I have watched Monsignor press on from early morning Mass to a late night school commission meeting – 50 years of pushing through the challenges of parish life. Despite his obvious fatigue, he never once raised his voice in frustration, nor failed to be respectful of all opinions, and he always tried to arrive at the best decision for all. He quietly labored on behalf of all those he considered his responsibility.

I have grown to understand that Monsignor says very little, listens a great deal and thinks about all aspects when making a key decision. Position, power or money will not influence him. He

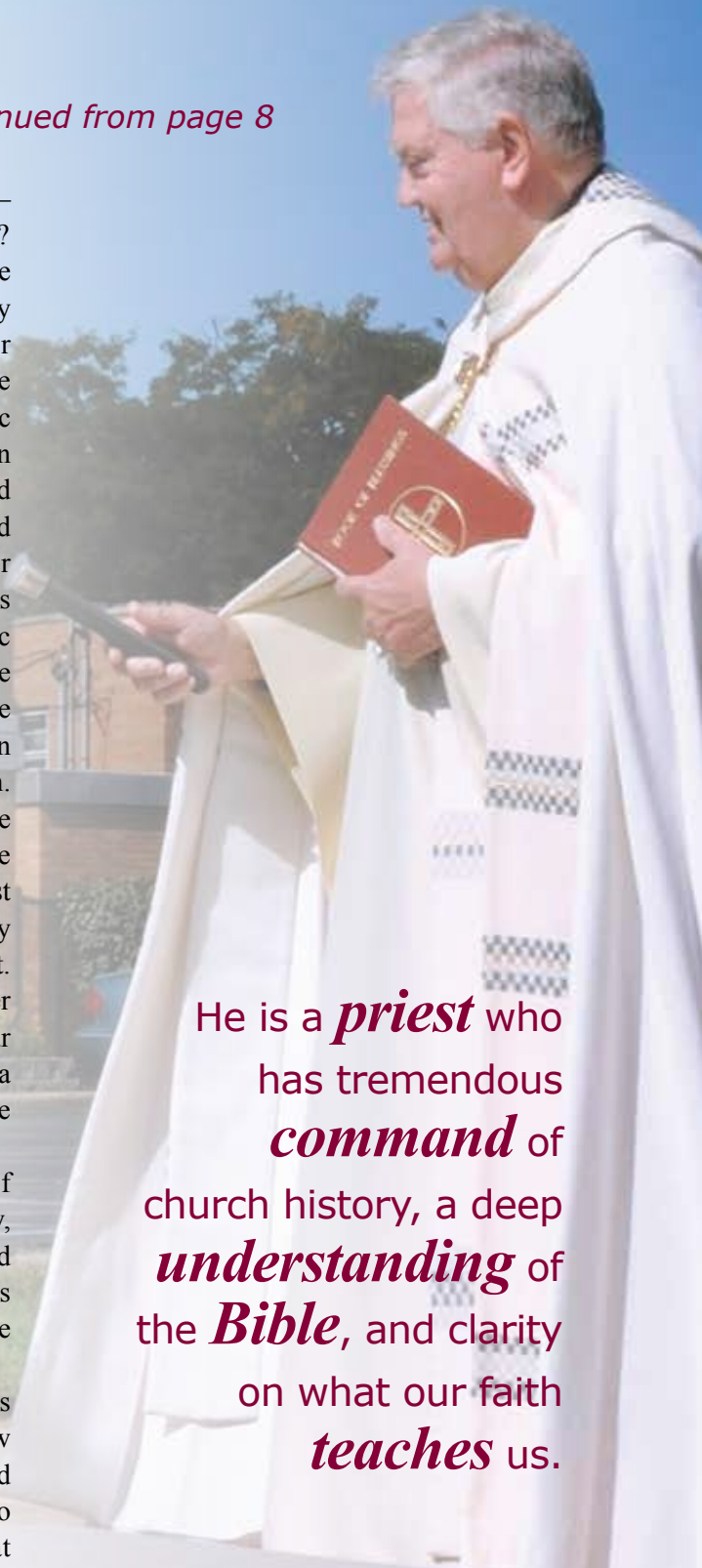
is guided by a simple question – what is good for the entire parish?

While some may sense Monsignor may not be naturally comfortable with younger children, he is very comfortable in his commitment to our Catholic schools and CCD. Serving on the Alleman Commission and the Vicariate School Board of Trustees with Monsignor provided me insight into his endless support of Catholic education. He always made sure the schools had the monies we committed to them. He believes in the value of a Catholic education.

Many people do not recognize the frugality of Monsignor. He does not charge the parish for most of his expenses, preferring to pay for them out of his own pocket. He is known to personally cover various parish expenses when our funds are challenged. He feels a great sense of obligation to the members of this parish.

My lasting impression of Monsignor is that of a very holy, learned, faith-filled, committed parish priest who for 50 years has lived a simple life in service to others.

On a humorous note, I was talking with Monsignor a few weeks ago. He had just ordered some chicks and ducklings to have on his farm. I asked what he was going to do with them. He replied with a deadpan expression, “Eat them!”



He is a *priest* who has tremendous *command* of church history, a deep *understanding* of the *Bible*, and clarity on what our faith *teaches* us.

# Parish Staff and Associates Bid Msgr. Wellman a Fond Farewell

**Mary-Ellen Pfeiffer,**  
*Director of Religious Education*

Here is the daily litany in my house:

“Mommy, I’m sad.”

“Why, Katrina?”

“Because today is one day closer to when Msgr. Wellman is leaving?”

“He is retiring, Katrina. He deserves it. He is going to go farm and that is good for the earth and for you. Why does it bother you so much?”

“Because he cares.”

As the saying goes, out of the mouth of babes.

I was not looking for a job when I submitted my resume to Sacred Heart. Periodically, I would submit it when I was curious about a job. I would know if I was to be at a particular parish or not. You can be rest assured that my interview was as much an interview of the assembled panel and, primarily, of Msgr. Wellman. My work is performed at the discretion of the pastor, so it serves the parish little if the Director of Religious Education and the pastor cannot get along, or do not relate well. Although, truth be told, I think he found me rather odd – he probably still does!

Msgr. Wellman truly cares – about the people entrusted to his care, doing what is just, and sharing the Gospel in a way that is relevant. To this day, he wakes up every morning and still tries



his best to do these things, which is quite an accomplishment after all of these years in ministry. He may say Mass early in the morning, rush out to do hospital calls, and come back to patiently show a little girl how to patiently use an M&M’s dispenser. There is time for everyone and each one is treated with dignity and respect. Simply put, he cares. May we be as fortunate in the days to come.

**Kate Schaefer,**  
*Parish Receptionist*

Although I have not worked for the parish very long, I can see that Msgr. Wellman is a very humble man. Kind, caring, considerate and very devoted to his parish community, he will be missed by all.

**Mary Veys,**  
*Campaign Coordinator*

Msgr. Wellman is a priest of great integrity, extremely trustworthy and deeply spiritual. Every day he gifted himself and others in the hospital with a visit. He is a true example of the meaning of “do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. I consider him not just my pastor but a friend. WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

**Sister Kathleen Mullin,**  
*BVM – Pastoral Associate*

Msgr. Dale Wellman, a parish priest for 50 full years, came to us at Sacred Heart in June 2001. He brought us his diverse experiences of ministry and wisdom. Initially, he observed and listened to us in the parish center. He endorsed our funeral planning committee’s ministry, and added the practice of creating worship booklets for each funeral in the church and at funeral homes. Msgr. Dale uses his artistic and computer skills in many ways, including making the Paschal candle annually




and creating certificates for couples participating in the Marriage Day Mass and new Catholics in the Easter Vigil. Through his visits to parishioners in the hospitals and nursing homes, Monsignor. shows compassion to many individuals and connects with families at times of stress. Each year, the Christian Initiation community discovers Msgr. Dale’s grasp of church history and his appreciation of the Sacred Heart church building, which was refurbished during his leadership for the centennial of the parish. Personally, I am grateful for Monsignor’s support when I continued ministering in the parish while doing formation ministry for my BVM congregation, in Dubuque and even in West Africa. And I am enriched by our years of collaborating in the parish. Msgr. Dale is a friend and spiritual companion.

**Bobbie Vidmar,**  
*Finance Officer*

I came to work at Sacred Heart upon retiring from a full-time position. I had known Monsignor from my time on the Seton School commission, when Monsignor first came to Sacred Heart. I was welcomed as a member of the staff and made to feel very much a part of the Sacred Heart family.

Over my 3 1/2 years that I have been working with Monsignor, I have gotten to know him as a person who is faith-filled and trusts in the Lord. He has helped to teach me to rely on the Lord, for He will provide for all our needs.



**Jim Watson,**  
*Trustee*

I observed that Msgr. Wellman was a very calming influence. He was never confrontational. He always put the parish first. He refused to cut corners where those who preceded him did. He is very fair and doesn't play favorites. He wasn't bothered by control issues, thus he allowed those in leadership roles to take responsibility for some decision-making. He was a holy man and good role model.

**Stephanie Noe,**  
*Parish Assistant*

I have had the privilege to know Msgr. Wellman as very few have. I have been working at Sacred Heart for nearly six years in the Lee Parish Office. We, the staff, share our lunchtime together nearly every day. We gather at the table, say grace, and begin talking about what is happening in our lives, as a family would converse at the supper table. We talk about parish happenings, family events, worldly crisis, politics (yikes!), sports – especially if the St. Louis Cardinals are involved, etc. We always know that if Suzie Budde starts out by saying “Monsignor-y,” it's going to be interesting.

Msgr. Wellman has shared many stories as a young priest with us during our lunchtime meetings. He always has a sparkle in his eyes when he talks about this time in his life.

He has invited the staff and their families for visits to “the farm”. Of course, the farm is where his sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Frank, lived. We would bring food to share and make a day of it, playing dominoes, riding the Gators, picking corn from the fields.

I feel very blessed to have spent these five-plus years working with Msgr. Wellman. Thank you, Monsignor, for opening your heart and sharing this time with us.

## Reflections on Msgr. Wellman “Learning From His Words of Wisdom”

*By Suzie Budde, Administrative Assistant*

**W**hen I was asked to write a couple of paragraphs regarding my time spent working with Msgr. Wellman, I thought, how does a person put 13 years of experience and memories into a few paragraphs? There are many things I could share about Monsignor, but here are the moments that have touched my heart.

I have had the pleasure of working with Msgr. Wellman since his arrival in 2001. My first impression of Monsignor was overwhelming, I think due to his stature. But in working with him, I have found that he is like a teddy bear with big ideas and a strong faith. There has never been a day that has gone by that I have not learned something of the utmost importance and value from Msgr. Wellman.

Once you get to know Monsignor, he is the gentlest, kindest and most unassuming person you have ever met. His dry sense of humor keeps you laughing because you never know what he is going to say. Celebrating Mass and special Sacramental Liturgies with Monsignor has been a wonderful experience. I have learned so much from his words of wisdom. Monsignor has a special gift of ministering to the sick and the poor. I experienced Monsignor's gentleness with my own mother and with Msgr. Ambrose Cunningham. So many families have shared their thoughts on how they were moved by Monsignor's gift of tenderness in ministering to families at their time of loss and suffering.

Monsignor has always showed his gratitude and appreciation for the staff's hard work. He is a man of few words, but when he sends you a card with his thanks and gratitude acknowledged in the card, you know he is proud of the work you do.

Along with the happy times together, there have also been a few sad times. The loss of my mother, the loss of Monsignor's good friend and confidant, Msgr. Ambrose Cunningham, his brother-in-law, Frank, and sister, Carol – these moments have been difficult and challenging, but the support of one another in our office has gotten us through many tears of joy and sadness.

I will miss our staff meetings that we shared together that always took place during our lunch hour. Business as usual was conducted during this time, and we always made sure that Monsignor's dog, Sammy, was part of the discussion.

It has been a long journey and a pleasure working with and knowing Monsignor and his family. As I have said many times, and I quote Msgr. Ambrose Cunningham, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Take the rest of the day off and enjoy your retirement.” You deserve it and you will be missed. Blessings on you always!



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Saturday Morning: 8:30 a.m.

**Confessions**

Saturday: 3 to 4 p.m.  
and by appointment, call 762-2362

**Eucharistic Adoration (St. Francis Chapel)**

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



# A Farewell Blessing

*May the Lord bless and keep you. Amen.  
May he let his face shine upon you and  
show you his mercy. Amen.  
May he let his face shine upon you and  
fill you with peace. Amen  
And may the blessing of almighty God,  
The Father, and the Son,  
+ and the Holy Spirit,  
Come down on you and remain with  
you forever. Amen.*