

heartbeat

The Pulse of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois

Issue 9
May 2016



**TAKING STOCK OF
OUR PARISH**

CONFIRMATION 2016

JOIN US FOR A FARM-TASTIC VBS



NEW WELCOMING COMMITTEE HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

The most vibrant of parishes have ministries dedicated to welcoming new members. As part of the strategic planning process at our parish, it was determined that we could benefit from such a committee at Sacred Heart.

Our recently formed Welcoming Committee is dedicating itself to helping new parishioners get involved early on in parish life by identifying the interests and talents of our newest members and pointing them in the right direction. This work includes getting to know a little bit of our newest member's backstories and family life, and in some cases even learning about their sacramental needs. Some Catholics, for example, did not complete all of their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation) in their youth for whatever reason and have a need to complete them as adults. We hope our new committee helps to prevent new parishioners from "slipping through the cracks" regarding completion of the Sacraments.

Our new Welcoming Committee currently consists of fifteen dedicated parishioners but the door is always open for more to join! Our next meeting will be later this summer, with subsequent meetings held as needed. If you are interested in joining our new Welcoming Committee or providing other support, please contact Darlene Steffen at (309) 230-3627.

TAKING STOCK OF OUR PARISH

Dear Parishioners,

I am now celebrating my second anniversary as your pastor. Much has happened these last two years. One thing we have done is strategic planning which was a large undertaking. We are now trying to implement our plan. The Pastoral Council is in charge of pushing the plan forward. We have reviewed the strategic plan the first two quarters of the year and we are on track, but there is much to do.

We have seen new initiatives in fundraising led by our new Development Committee. We have made progress in maintaining our buildings as our new Facilities Committee has begun its planning. We have seen increases in the number of families in our parish. So there are signs that we are moving, but we have to keep pressing forward. We need new leaders to step up and we need to create new spiritual opportunities for our members so that we all can grow to be more like Jesus our savior.

One of the things that we will be trying to do this summer is to update our census. A committee of our Pastoral Council is trying to determine just how many families we should claim. We need to also get accurate phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Too many people have shut down their land lines and are now just using cell phones. It is hard to communicate if we do not have phone numbers, internet information and

accurate addresses and communication is the key to an organization's health and vitality.

If you are contacted in church, online, by mail or over the phone please cooperate with those trying to get information. Our first attempt at revising our census will be to contact those we have not heard from lately. In the end we hope to know how many families belong to our parish so we can serve everyone better.

I hope everyone has a fun summer. Thank you again for being so good to your pastor. It is humbling to serve such good people.

Blessings,

Fr. Mark DeSutter
Pastor



DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE LEADS “OUTSIDE THE BOX” FUNDRAISING

As highlighted earlier in this publication, our strategic planning initiative has identified several new committees that we believe are essential to the future growth and success of our parish. One of the committees with perhaps the largest impact to date is our new Development Committee.

This committee has been charged with developing additional income for various extraordinary parish needs. A group like this is a somewhat new concept to many Catholic parishes, as traditionally parishes have not thought outside the box in finding additional revenue sources and relied solely on ordinary income for survival. The additional dollars raised by the efforts of this new committee reduce the demand on our parish operating budget which is primarily funded by Sunday envelopes and used to support routine parish expenses.

Money raised by this committee does not simply disappear into a black hole though. Our committee provides oversight into the use of dollars raised to ensure the wishes of donors are honored. Targeted giving allows us to provide a list of specific needs to donors and ensure their monies are directed to areas they wish to support. The creation of the Heart to Heart Campaign, which all parishioners should now be familiar with, has allowed us to generate funds that have already benefited our parish greatly.

The funds generated by our committee are used in a variety of ways. Work on our facilities and general updates to the parish have been accomplished which includes our recent tuckpointing project that was completely funded by Heart to Heart campaign funds. We have also:

- Repaired sections of our roof
- Put new doors on the Lee Parish Center and church.
- Repaired/replaced various heating and cooling units
- Resealed our parking lot
- Purchased equipment such as microphones for musicians, wireless routers, and other misc. items.

This fund, however, is not just about bricks and mortar. It's also providing for new programming and ministry support. This includes youth education such as our vacation bible school, parish missions and general religious education. A small portion of the Heart to Heart funds will also be used to bring in entertaining and insightful speakers to deepen our faith and explore how we can apply our Catholic beliefs in our day-to-day activities.

It recently came to our attention that many parishioners had been asking about the proper way to write a will and execute estate giving that would benefit Sacred Heart Parish. To aid our parishioners, a seminar was recently hosted by the Development Committee to a packed house that addressed these questions for parishioners to the benefit of all.

Now two years old, the Development Committee has already raised over \$160,000.00 to address both short-term and longer term needs of the parish. Besides the Heart To Heart Campaign, we have added the John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity fundraiser as an option for parishioners to donate to the parish. All donations to Birdies on behalf of Sacred Heart are returned to the parish with at least a 5% match by the John Deere Classic, which is a great way to participate in a high profile community event and at the same time, benefit the parish.

Led by Jim Harl as chair, the committee currently consists of five parishioners with various financial and development backgrounds. Says Jim, “Sacred Heart Parishioners have been very supportive of the Heart to Heart program. Their generosity has allowed the parish to meet the many needs that cannot be supported through weekly envelope giving.” The Development Committee is very appreciative to all of those who have supported the parish's request for additional funds to ensure parish programs and facilities meet the on-going needs of our Sacred Heart family. We welcome a conversation with anyone who would like to explore an opportunity to benefit Sacred Heart Parish. Interested persons can contact Jim Harl at (309) 737-3188.



CONFIRMATION CLASS, 2016

CONFIRMED IN THE SPIRIT

On April 10th forty-three young people from our parish received the Sacrament of Confirmation with our former pastor, Msgr. Dale Wellman, serving as the main celebrant. One of these young members of our parish was Beyonce Gonzales and she shared some of her experiences of the day with us.

“My Confirmation was the best experience that I have ever had,” says Beyonce. She chose her Uncle Cesar and Aunt Claudia as her sponsors because they've always been like second parents to her. They were also the ones instrumental in encouraging her throughout the Confirmation process and arranging all the papers with Ms. Ivy. They've also actively encouraged her to follow her faith, which means a lot to her since every now and then she needs a little nudge. Beyonce says the thing she enjoyed most about Confirmation was when she was anointed with chrism and sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and that she's already felt a call to defend her faith and share it with everyone around her. She's also felt called to sign up for several ministries and is really looking forward to being an active member of the parish. It's great to already see the Spirit at work in our youth!

JOIN US FOR OUR SECOND HAND SALE

We hope you have begun to put aside your items for our SECOND HAND SALE/BOOKMAN'S BARGAIN BOUTIQUE scheduled for June 9, 10 & 11, 2016 in Culemans Hall. This is our largest fundraiser for the Parish, and it will take everyone's help to make it a success. Start cleaning out your house now, and remember please NO large appliances, NO TV's, NO computers, NO encyclopedias, and that small appliances must be in good working order and cleaned. If you have a sale prior to ours, we will take all your left over sale items. Don't forget live plants are a good selling item. We will take them off your hands!

To donate sale items to our Second Hand Sale, to volunteer, or, to allow us to put a sign in your yard, please call Mary Schoeve at 309-236-2408. Remember, your junk is our treasure! Proceeds from this sale will go towards major projects for the parish and we appreciate your help in making this a success!



POPE FRANCIS: PRAYER IS NOT A MAGIC WAND

Prayer is not a magic wand that fulfills your desires, but it is what helps you keep the faith when you don't understand God's will, Pope Francis said. Prayer is meant to be "our daily bread, our powerful weapon and the staff for our journey," he said May 25 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

In his catechesis, the pope talked about the Gospel parable of the persistent widow, who incessantly appealed to a corrupt judge for justice. Judges at the time were supposed to be filled with the fear of God as they impartially and faithfully upheld the laws of Moses, the pope said. But the judge in this parable was dishonest and only cared about himself. He had no interest in protecting the rights of the weakest and easily exploited members of society, which included widows, orphans and foreigners, he said. "Faced with the judge's indifference, the widow resorted to her only weapon — to keep incessantly pestering him, presenting him with her appeal for justice," the pope said.

The judge finally gives in, he said, "not because he is moved by mercy or because his conscience forces him to," but because of her perseverance. He realizes he will never rid himself of her until he delivers a just decision, and so he does, the pope said.

He said Jesus uses this parable to show that if a widow with no clout or influence could sway an uncaring judge merely through her patient and persistent pleas, then

imagine how powerful that same force of prayer is when directed toward a loving, merciful and benevolent God. Jesus is showing how important and necessary it is to pray tirelessly, all the time and not just every now and then, "when I feel like it," the pope said.

"We all experience moments of exhaustion and discouragement, above all when our prayers don't seem to work," he said. Contrary to the stubborn judge, he said, God speedily secures "the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night," according to the Gospel of St. Luke (18:1-8).

But that doesn't mean God will respond when "and in the ways that we want. Prayer is not a magic wand," the pope said. When Jesus prayed that his father spare him from "the bitter cup of his passion," he also put himself fully in God's hands, asking that the father's will — not his own — be done. Jesus shows how prayer is about strengthening one's relationship with the father — transforming one's own wishes and conforming them to God's will, he said.

Prayer "helps us keep our faith in God and to trust him even when we do not understand his will," Pope Francis said. And it is in prayer that people experience the compassion of God who comes to his children "filled with merciful love.

Source: Catholic News Agency

JOIN US FOR A FARM-TASTIC VACATION BIBLE STUDY!

VBS 2016 is "farm-tastic!" In Barnyard Roundup VBS, your children learn that Jesus gathers us together! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where Jesus graciously gathers us together to be with Him with His abundant provision and saving protection, now and forever.

Registration is open for Pre-K through 5th grade children who will attend VBS from July 11 to July 15, 1-4:30PM. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and more. Plus, you'll learn all about Jesus our Savior and how He gathers us together! Can't wait to see you there! To register, register online at <https://vbsmate.com/sacredheartmoline>.

Call all volunteers!

Be part of Barnyard Roundup VBS! God's children of all ages will learn that Jesus gathers us together at Barnyard Roundup VBS. AND, every child will hear the Good News that Jesus, their Savior, is with us and abundantly provides for all our needs. He also protects and saves us—now in this world and forever too! At Barnyard Roundup VBS, as VBS staff you can live out the theme "Jesus Gathers Us Together" as you share the message and the fun with kids! If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests

Parish Support:

We appreciate your prayers for Barnyard Roundup, our Vacation Bible School being held on July 11-15. Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission. Pick up a Prayer Calendar from Ivy Padula with suggestions for each day before VBS.

For any questions, comments or concerns please contact Ivy Padula at ivygoes2church@gmail.com or at (309)762-2362 ext. 210.

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CATHOLIC CHURCH
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Mass Times

- Sundays: 7, 9, 11 a.m.
- Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.
- Daily Masses (M-F): 6:30, 8:30 a.m.
- Saturday Morning: 8:30 a.m.

Confessions

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

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction (St. Francis Chapel)

- Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

