



Getting ready for the 60th Anniversary!

By: Father Mark Vander Steeg, Pastor

Save the Date!!

DEACON JOHN LAURENT

Thank you and Appreciation

Sunday Breakfast

February 28th



We are entering a memorable year. This is the 60th anniversary of the founding of the parish. We want to honor our parish this year and draw a spotlight on our past, present and future. I hope to do this myself through the months ahead.

One of our big feasts that I hope to see happen is the Sunday June 5th, 60th anniversary celebration. We have had a fair amount of generous hearts step forward to help plan. If you would like to be involved in this, please let the office know, especially if you can truly claim some heritage in this parish!

As many of our long standing members of the parish well know, we were established as a sub-division of St. Philip Parish on Green Bay's then growing east side on July 12, 1956. The great Bishop Stanilaus Bona, a giant of a figure in both stature and legend, was our founding Bishop.

Fr. Edward Haessly, whom our Gym is named after, was appointed our first pastor. They bought eight acres on what was a chicken farm and began construction in 1957. The aerial shots make the site look massive and undeveloped. The first Mass was offered soon thereafter on February 2, 1958. The buildings were formally dedicated that same year on September 1, 1958.

The best historical estimates we have for the cost of the parish is \$660,000. No small change back then, nor today. The school opened two days later and was shepherded by the very capable Franciscan Sisters of Charity out of Manitowoc. They remain highly venerated to this day for their commitment to education and formation, especially through Silver Lake College. The Convent where they lived is now gone.

We opened with 367 students similar to our number of students now. It has ebbed and flowed through the years. As we welcome our Spanish speaking students in the area we are

poised for a bright integrated future. Father Haessly remained as pastor until June of 1969. From a parish that started from nearly 250 families we have grown to nearly 2000 registered families.

St. Bernard was blessed to have been served by many great priests. We think of Fr. Mark Schmitt who later became the Bishop of Marquette, Michigan and a dear friend of Monsignor Brian Coleman who often helps me out here for Mass. Monsignor enjoyed Bishop Schmitt immensely and counted him and his family as some of his dearest friends. He remembers meals in the great rectory dining room and Bishop Schmitt standing on the screened porch of what is now the parish offices. Many fond memories hallo these halls.

We honor Monsignor Borusky (who looked like a ton of fun), the great, great Fr. Bergstadt and of course the beloved Fr. Dave Pleier, now pastor of the largest parish in the diocese. Should be fun!

Inside this Issue:

<i>Purple: The Color of Lent</i>	2
<i>Interview With Deacon John Laurant</i>	3
<i>The Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity</i>	4
<i>Conversion- Not Just for the Fem...</i>	5
<i>St. Bernard School Logo Reveal</i>	6
<i>Housing Partnership (EPH)</i>	7
<i>Not Facing Illness Alone...</i>	8

Purple: The Color of Lent

By: Callie Kowalski, Youth Minister



From the Gospel of Mark:

The soldiers led him away inside the **palace**, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. **They clothed him in purple** and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the **purple** cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.

Have you ever wondered why purple is attributed to Lent? Throughout history, the color purple usually symbolizes items of importance. Back in the day, if people were wearing items of clothing in purple, it usually meant that they were of noble or royal background because purple was the most expensive color to dye clothing. This idea that purple represents royalty can also be found in the bible: Judges 8:26 talks about kings dressed in purple garments, and Esther 8:15 refers to Mordecai, who ended up being related to Queen Esther, and was presented to the king to enter into the royal family and he ends up leaving the king in a purple robe.

However, in the above passage from the Gospel of Mark, we can clearly see that the color purple is being used in mockery of Jesus. They crown him “King of the Jews” as a joke, spit in his face, and strike him. Little did they know, that this “mockery” would actually represent Jesus’s eternal glory and his resurrection.

On the color wheel, purple contrasts rose; which, as a color, symbolizes joy. We see this during 2 liturgical days of the year: Gaudete Sunday during Advent and Laetare Sunday during Lent. Although Lent is a preparation period, it is also a time to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus. As a contrast to pink

(joy), purple can be viewed as a color representing grief or sorrow.

We use purple to liturgically represent Lent because it allows us to also enter into the mockery, trial, battle, passion, and eternal glory (the resurrection) of Jesus as well. Lent is really a time for us to purify our hearts to get closer to our Lord. As Jesus tells us in scripture, his home is not of this world, and neither is ours—our royalty, our purple robe, will be waiting for us when we receive our heavenly inheritance from God.



Smile! We need a New Directory!

By: Ann Bonham, Pictorial Directory Chairman

Can you believe that it has been six years since our last St. Bernard Parish Pictorial Directory! Many new members have joined the parish, many have also passed on to God, and all of us have grown a little older. So it’s time to plan another one!

The photography sessions will begin at the end of May and continue into mid June. This should give most persons enough time to squeeze it in. Sign up is set to begin in early April. You will be able to sign up online and at church. Whatever is more convenient.

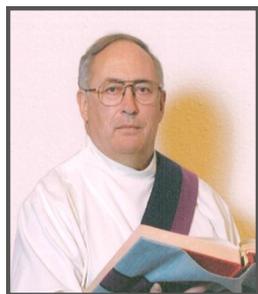
We want to make this one of the

best Pictorial Directories we've done at St. Bernard Parish and want you and your family to be in it! We really need your picture. Families will get some nice larger pictures for free.

A mailing will be coming soon from the Parish with more details. So keep a watch for it!

My Interview With Deacon John Laurant

By: Sister Caroline Castellini OP, Pastoral Associate



Deacon John Laurant celebrated his 75th birthday on January 31. At that time he had the choice to either continue his formal assignment at St. Bernard or to transition into Senior Status. He requested Senior Status and has been granted that status from Bishop Ricken. He retains all of his faculties as a deacon but is relieved of the formal responsibilities.

Deacon John shared his vocation story with me. I share this wonderful, faith filled story with you.

Sister Caroline: Deacon John tell me about your call and path to the Diaconate.

Deacon John: The seed was sown during a Cursillo Retreat in 1975 and then Monsignor Borusky invited me and Lee Ann to a meeting about the diaconate along with some other parishioners. He had a great vision of having at least five deacons in ministry at St. Bernard. At the time our children were very young and Lee Ann and I decided that because as a deacon, unable to remarry, if anything were to happen to her and I was left alone with the girls it would be very difficult. Shortly after this meeting, I was transferred by Prudential to Racine and I put the prospect of entering into the diaconate process on hold. We were in Racine for six years and then returned to Green Bay.

After our return, Fr. Bergstadt also approached me about considering the diaconate and after prayer and reflection I decided to enter the process.

Sister Caroline: You have told me how your many years with Prudential were beneficial to your vocation. How have your work experiences translated into your diaconal ministry?

Deacon John: I have had so many opportunities with Prudential to grow personally and to hone skills that were so helpful as a deacon. The ability to stand up before groups, to organize meetings, to develop interpersonal relationships and to do what is best for my clients have been valuable attributes also in my vocation.

Sister Caroline: Adding the responsibilities of the diaconate to your dedication to family and work can be a challenge. How have Lee Ann and the girls been a part of your journey.

Deacon John: From the very beginning, they were very supportive. Through my studies, Lee Ann would listen to my presentations and Lisa, a college student, critiqued my papers. They were very understanding of the necessity of time spent away from them as I was called to be present to my pastoral duties, leading groups or making home or hospital visits.

Sister Caroline: Tell me about your ministries throughout these years at St. Bernard.

Deacon John: I began, even in my time in Racine, training servers. I continued that at St. Bernard for over 20 years. I have



performed baptisms, marriages, Word and Communion services, preached, taught religious education and confirmation classes, visited the sick, quietly supported individuals and families and been involved in many outreach projects in the parish and community, and continue, even now to lead a Bible Study group.

Sr. Caroline: Deacon John, Thank you for sharing your journey with us. Would you like to make a “closing statement”?

Deacon John: God has worked through me my entire life and as I look back I can see how even situations that seemed to be struggles were moments of growth and strength for the future. God continues to work in and through me. I have been continually blessed with family, both Lee Ann, Lori, Lisa, Jodi and grandchildren and my St. Bernard family.

Sr. Caroline: Thank you and may you continue to share your gifts and blessings!

Please come and share in celebrating Deacon John's ministry with the St. Bernard Family

10:00AM Mass on Sunday, February 28, 2016 followed by breakfast.



The Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity

By: Adam Horn, Director of Religious Education



In the newsletter sent out at the beginning of the school year I wrote about virtue in general and the importance of consistency. Next, in Advent, I wrote specifically about the Cardinal Virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude.

Finally, in this latest newsletter I will discuss the importance of the Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity, which dispose us to live in a relationship with God. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1812).

Obviously, faith is believing in God and all that He has revealed to be true. Even a quick reading of the New Testament will show how important faith is. The first thing Jesus commands in the Gospel of Mark is to “Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” (Mk 1:15) When he forgives people’s sins he says “your faith has saved you.” (Lk 7:50) He even refuses to perform miracles in Nazareth because of their lack of faith. (Mt 13:58) Faith is a key concept in the letters of St. Paul, who explains that it is through our faith that we are made righteous in the eyes of God. St. James reminds us that faith is meant to urge us to do good works, stating bluntly that “faith without works is dead.” (Jas 2:26)

By the theological virtue of hope we turn our desire from earthly things toward heavenly things. We do not put our hope in Green Bay, but in God’s promise of eternal life in heaven. And what is the source of this hope? Christ of course! At the Incarnation, God took on a human nature and became fully man (while also remaining fully God). At the Resurrection we see that one who is fully human rose from the dead. Likewise, at the Ascension we see that one who is fully human went to heaven. By uniting ourselves to Christ’s sacrifice by receiving the Eucharist, we are uniting ourselves also to his Resurrection and Ascension. Hope is what strengthened and fortified the martyrs.

Finally, we come to charity. From the Greek word *agape*, “charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.” (CCC, 1822) We love God not out of a sense of obligation or fear, or even a hope for gain, but because God Himself is more lovable than all else. One reason I love St. Therese of Lisieux is because she wasn’t a towering intellect like Thomas Aquinas and she didn’t

dramatically change the world like the Apostles. Instead she was just a kid who loved the nuns she lived with—even the disagreeable ones. She shows us that living a life of love is a means to holiness. That’s charity, and as St. Paul says: “Meanwhile faith, hope, and charity persist, all three; but the greatest of them all is charity.” (1 Cor 13:13)



Calling All Inactive Catholics

The program for Inactive Catholics is designed for anyone who has been inactive or away from the Church and wishes to reconnect.

The program will be held Tuesday, March 8, 15, 29 and April 5.

It will be held at the St. Bernard Parish Office, 2040 Hillside Lane, starting at 7:00 pm.

For more information call Larry Mastalish or contact the Parish Office at: 920-468-4811.

Conversion-Not Just for the Few

By: Joanne Griesbach, Adult Education-RCIA



The Lenten season is the time when participants in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process are making their final preparation for initiation into the Catholic Church. Except for the occasional brief ceremony during Mass, much of this preparation happens quietly and out of view. Even so, all members of the Church should be knowledgeable about this process because it reveals a lot about our own faith journey.

The RCIA is the formal process by which the Church forms new adult disciples, in response to Jesus' command, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19-20a). If we were to ask most Catholics to define the "RCIA," it is probable that most would say that it is for "converts," people who are not Catholic and want to become members of the Church. But is that all there is to it? What is really going on in this process and how does it affect the rest of us "cradle Catholics."

In its formal structure, the RCIA process proceeds in four stages:

1. Inquiry: A person may develop an interest in the Catholic faith because they have been impressed by the witness of an acquaintance or family

member. Or they are interested in what the Church has to say about the most important issues and questions in life. Those who are part of the RCIA ministry meet and introduce this person to basic Church teachings and try to answer their initial questions.

2. Catechesis: If the "inquirer" decides that he/she wants to delve deeper into the faith, then the RCIA process takes them into a more formal and sequential presentation of the truths of the faith.
3. Purification and Enlightenment: When the Catechumen (unbaptized person) or Candidate (baptized but not catechized) is ready to commit to the Catholic way of life, they enter a period, (corresponding with the Lenten season) of deep personal contemplation of the meaning of being "born again" in Baptism, sent out into the world through Confirmation and nourishing their faith in the Eucharist.
4. Mystagogy: Once a person has received the Sacraments of Initiation, they enter fully into the life of the Church and continue to allow God to change their lives and mold them into the image of Christ on earth.

RCIA, then, is a process of conversion to Jesus Christ. Because of this, **all** Catholics should and need to know what the process entails. Not just for our own personal information but for our own spiritual benefit.

"Cradle Catholics" that support the candidates and catechumens in the RCIA process often experience a "wow" moment. They take on the ministry thinking that they know pretty much all there is to know about the faith and living as a Catholic. But as they participate in the lessons and activities they find out just how much they do not know, and how much more depth there is to the Church's doctrine and practice. They find themselves becoming better Catholics – more informed and appreciative of their faith. And most especially they develop a burning desire for a more intimate relationship with our Lord.

And that is what RCIA teaches us. Conversion is not just for those who enter the Church as adults. It is for all of us. Christian life on this earth is a continuous process of conversion and the four steps of the RCIA process describe what this should look like. We all have questions about the faith and how it should shape our everyday life. We all need to deeply contemplate the meaning of the Church's teaching and liturgy. And when we do so, our lives revolve more and more around the will of God and we enter more deeply into the life of grace so that we can fully function as members of God's family.



St. Bernard School-Logo reveal

By: Crystal Blabnik-School Principal

As you may have heard, we had a pretty big party in our gym on January 22nd, 2016. We officially retired our current logo, honoring Mr. Brian Lani, it's designer, and unveiled the new one which was designed to lead us into the future. The creation of this new logo was truly a process. The timeline was set out in the Spring, with the help of O'Connor Connective, and the majority of the work was done this Fall. The design process included surveys to students, parents and parishioners and discovery sessions with representative members of our stake-holders.

Through the analysis of the surveys, several key themes rose to the top. Most people identified the school colors as red, white and black. There was a strong sense of community and a circular image was recommended by some. Many stated that they associated peacefulness with our building, and wanted to somehow represent the fact that there is abundant warmth and light here. There was a strong sense of devotion to the faith and a cross was most often mentioned.

As we began to pull the image together we also embarked on a mission to learn about St. Bernard the man - his life and his devotions. St. Bernard of Clairvaux is the patron saint of bee keepers and candle makers. He was a Cistercian Monk. The monks lived by the Benedictine Rule

of "Peace, Pray, Work" - He is often depicted with an image of a red book in his arms which is actually the Benedictine Rule. He had a strong devotion to Mary and was known as a Peacemaker. The final logo design was a culmination of the survey themes and elements of St. Bernard's life that resonated with our school community.

- ◆ Black, White and Red - The official school colors
- ◆ 1958 - The school's founding date
- ◆ The light - symbolic of so many things - the physical light mentioned, the patron saint of candle makers, the light of Christ that burns from within
- ◆ The book with the B - also symbolic of many things - the bible, the Benedictine Rule, St. Bernard, our devotion as a school to reading and learning
- ◆ Peace - Pray - Learn:
- ◆ a twist on Bernard's Peace, Pray, Work - one that fits us perfectly.
- ◆ The spacer in between Peace Pray Work - as a reminder again of our roots and a nod to Mr. Lani's work as this is the "period" in our former logo.

Old Logo



THANKS AND GRATITUDE

My personal thanks goes out to the St. Bernard Parish Office Staff and Community for their support and enthusiasm for this project. Thank you to our parish staff for closing their offices to attend the unveiling. We very much appreciate you sharing this special day with us. Thank you as well, to those nearest and dearest to us here each day, our students, staff and parents. And a final thank you to the key members of the discovery team: Ginny Gigot, Kris Hess, Emily D'Angelo, Michael Kulick and Katie Sullivan, as well as the SAC Marketing Team who coordinated the event.



Let's Make Sure Playing in the Rain is a Choice, Not a Necessity

By: Dennis Kozłowski—Deacon Candidate, St. Bernard Parish



The Ecumenical Partnership for Housing has been serving the homeless in our community for close to 25 years. St. Bernard's became a member parish of EPH several years ago and we sponsor a family in one unit of a 2-unit home on Green Bay's East side.

A family enters an available unit (one of approximately 20 throughout the city) with assistance from EPH and our co-partner, the Salvation Army. It is the goal of the program that the family becomes more and more independent, with the ultimate goal of arranging for their own housing in a sort of "graduation" from the program.

EPH's needs are ongoing but the following are ways that you can assist with making homeless families in Brown County become more independent and self-sufficient:

*A monetary donation to EPH. An envelope was included in your January packet of envelopes sent to your home in January. Please consider a donation to EPH and know that your donation will go a long way in helping the homeless and their feeling of helplessness. If you would like to contribute to EPH and do not receive monthly envelopes please deposit your

contribution in an envelope marked EPH and place it in the box in the narthex near the entrance to the church.

*Everyday needs are a big part of our wish list. A partial list includes:

- +Household cleaning items
- +Diapers- size 3 & 4
- +Bicycles in good, working condition for children of any age
- +Flat screen TV's of 32 inches or smaller. If you received a new larger flat screen TV for Christmas and don't have a need for your old, smaller unit, please consider donating it to EPH
- +School supplies are needed all year round as new families enter the program all year round and children can be starting at new schools. Or, in place of buying the supplies, a gift card to Shopko, Wal-Mart or Office Max is most welcome.
- +Gift cards to restaurants or Marcus Theaters. Restaurants such as Culvers, Happy Joes, Applebee's, Mackinaws. These are used as rewards for families as they reach their goals and to offer them a well-deserved evening out.
- +Gas cards
- +Your prayers.

EPH families work hard to get back to a self-sufficient status by getting and finishing their education, finding employment, and gradually paying for their own housing and utilities. Your prayers and well wishes are always appreciated.

Please consider purchasing these items when you purchase from our parish SCRIP program. One gift card for you and one \$25 gift card for an EPH family. Supplies and donations can be dropped off at the parish office or can be placed in the box in the narthex. Please mark EPH on the envelope.

Please check the bulletin board in the narthex by the South entrance, assembled by unit coordinator Jan Hess. More information about the immediate needs of the EPH families can be found on the display.



St. Bernard Congregation

2040 Hillside Lane
Green Bay, WI 54302-4098

Parish Office: 920-468-4811
Religious Education Office: 920-468-4390
St. Bernard School: 920-468-5026

We're on the Web and Facebook!

www.stbernardgb.org

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Green Bay, WI
PERMIT No. 115

MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the people of St. Bernard Catholic Church
are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit
to give witness to the life and love of Jesus Christ!*

*We desire to build a community based on forgiveness,
caring, reaching out to one another,
personal prayer and sacramental worship.*



Parish Nurse *Not Facing Illness Alone*

By: Ann Kaufmann, Parish Nurse



As Joyce Rupp so eloquently writes...

*Some people lean on
crutches when their limbs
won't work for them;
and some people lean on
each other when their
hearts can't stand alone.*

*How long it takes to lean
upon you, God of shelter
and strength;
how long it takes to recog-
nize the truth of where my
inner power has its source.*

The staff at St. Bernard is also asking for you to lean on us when times are difficult.

We want to reach out to visit, pray and otherwise support you. When you arrive at the hospital, please tell them that you attend St. Bernard Parish in Green Bay and you give them permission to share that information with us. We are never too busy to visit or call and keep you in our prayers.

*Thank you for offering me
strength, for being the oak
tree of comfort;*

*Thank you for being the
sturdy support when the
limbs of my life are weak.*

*Praise to you, Eternal
Lean-to, for always being
there for me.*

*Continue to transform me
with the power of your
Love.*

EASTER VIGIL MASS
Saturday 7:45pm
EASTER SUNDAY MASSES
8:00am & 10:00am