

The Volunteer Messenger



Quarterly News and Information for the
Volunteers of St. Bernadette Roman Catholic Parish

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March 2010

Fr. Pete Introduces 'The Volunteer Messenger'

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our new St. Bernadette volunteer newsletter, "The Volunteer Messenger."

This is an exciting time to not only be a Catholic, but a member and volunteer in our parish community. St. Bernadette and its school are growing, as is our number of volunteers. We also are well on our way to building both a new gymnasium and a church. The energy, enthusiasm and commitment to building a legacy of faith are evident in the sacramental life and activities of both the parish and school. As a volunteer, you are a vital and instrumental part of the programs we offer, and a primary contributor in creating a parish where people

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want to be.

Every day I become increasingly aware of the many sacrifices you make to serve our community. I am constantly amazed at the marvelous things you, our volunteers, accomplish. Combine that with the joy that emanates from those of you who serve others, and I am inspired as I watch each of

you respond to God's invitation to live out your baptismal call. As St. Teresa of Avila once wrote, "yours are the hands with which Christ blesses his people."

You have my deepest admiration and appreciation for all that you do. I applaud you for your devotion, dedication and faithfulness. It is my sincere desire that this newsletter will serve as a sign of our gratitude, and that it will support you in your ongoing volunteer endeavors.

Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure with our community. I look forward to serving beside you for many more years.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Pete Rassa

Make Volunteering Work for You

Personal growth doesn't just happen when we learn or experience something new. Any time we give of ourselves unconditionally, we strengthen our character, raise our self-image and positively contribute to the welfare of others and our community. Continue to make volunteering work for you.

Community: Volunteering often is more enjoyable when shared. Find a group

of friends or gather family together and volunteer as a group. This accomplishes two things: You to make a positive contribution, and it provides time to be with people for whom you care. When you volunteer with others, you share a positive, joy-filled experience with everyone.

Enjoyment: Find ways to volunteer with groups of people with whom you would

love to spend time. Volunteering isn't as much about what you are physically doing, but rather with whom who you are doing it. Volunteer experiences are more exciting and worthwhile if you relate to, appreciate and become friends with the people with and for whom you serve.

Location: Often we reason that the most valuable

Come Holy Spirit come. Fill me with your gifts of wisdom and understanding. Open my eyes that I may see the path God has laid before me. Open my ears that I may hear His call. Open my heart that I may know and share His love with others. Holy Spirit guide me as I discern the gifts I have been given and help me to offer them back without reserve to the Father for the benefit of His people. Clear my life of distractions and obstacles so that I may respond to His call. Come Holy Spirit come and enkindle in me a burning desire to share my unique giftedness and the courage to step forward.
Amen

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BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS

Blessed are you who take the time to listen to my story.

Blessed are you who understand that it is hard for me to ask for help.

Blessed are you who don't try to 'take over' my life.

Blessed are you who invite me to help in solving my problems.

Blessed are you who stand beside me as I enter new and untried ventures.

Blessed are you who, with a smile, encourage me to keep on keeping on.

Blessed are you who never remind me that I have failed or that I have asked for help before.

Blessed are you who respect and love me as I am, and not as you wish I were.

Lent: An Invitation to Evaluate Our Lives

By Al Homiski

Most of us understand Lent as a season during which we are asked to fast from certain normal, healthy pleasures so that we may better prepare ourselves for the feast of Easter. However, it also is a time for us to slow down, take stock of ourselves and evaluate our lives.

As desert dwellers ourselves, our very surroundings can provide great food for thought during Lent. In preparing for his public ministry, Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. In this time, He fasted and, as the Gospel of Mark tells us, was put to the test by Satan and was among the wild animals. At the same time, the angels looked after Him.

Lent always has been understood as a time for us to imitate this — to metaphorically spend 40 days in the desert unprotected by normal nourishment. This is our time to face Satan and the wild

animals. It also is our time to find out whether the angels will indeed come and look after us when we reach the point that we can no longer look after ourselves.

'Outside the Lenten season, our distracted and ordinary lives shield us from the deeper chaos that lurks in the shadows of our own deserts.'

Again, though, the desert is a metaphor in this modern age. For us, "Satan" and "wild animals" can refer to the chaos inside each of us that we normally deny or simply refuse to face. These tests could come in any number of forms: our anger, jealousies, distance from others, grandiosity, addictions, unresolved hurts, sexual complexity, incapacity to

pray, and faith doubts.

Outside the Lenten season, our distracted and ordinary lives shield us from the deeper chaos that lurks in the shadows of our own deserts. Lent invites us to step from behind these shields and to feel our smallness, vulnerability and fears. It allows us to open ourselves so that we may finally give the angels a chance to look after us.

This Lenten season, let us truly prepare for Easter by not only praying, fasting and almsgiving, but also by letting down our defenses and making real and lasting changes to bring us to the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Al Homiski, Parish Administrator, can be reached at 480-905-0221 or ahomiski@saintbernadette.com.

This article was inspired by the writings of Fr. Ron Rolheiser, President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio.

Make Volunteering Work for You (from p. 1)

volunteer opportunities are part of a large event, require a long-term commitment or are offered at some distant location. Help out close to home. Offering your gifts at the parish or parish school gives you the opportunity to donate your time free from the hassle of traveling. As in real estate, location is everything.

Value: Volunteering can open up new possibilities and allow you to learn new skills. Serving as a sponsor for an individual in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

(RCIA) program offers you the chance to update your knowledge of the Church, and it provides a unique way to grow in your own holiness. Through volunteering, you can learn more about the Church and its teachings, acquire new technical abilities, and hone development and organizational skills. Learning new things helps keep us active and raises our self-esteem. The skills you gain or improve also translates well into other areas of your life, both professionally and personally.

Courage: Volunteering to do new and different things can be scary and a little awkward. But these situations provide special opportunities to stretch outside of our comfort zones. While volunteering certainly helps the receiving groups and programs, the biggest contribution may be to our own personal growth. It takes real courage to face our fears and to not sit and let others do the work. We must let the Lord guide us.

Inspired by "[5 Different Ways to Make Volunteering Exciting, Rewarding & Beautiful.](#)"

Girl Scout Troop Helps Christmas Dreams Come True

From planning and preparation to the final delivery of gifts, Blessed Pope John Paul XXIII Junior Girl Scout Troop #1118 donated more than 200 volunteer hours as they spearheaded one of the parish's most successful Christmas Angel projects.

The Girl Scouts' hard work, combined with our community's generosity, made many 2009 Christmas wishes a reality.

This year's project served families from St. Bernadette's parish and the St. Matthew's Catholic school community. Plus, the group donated more than 60 gifts to the SVdP Family Dining Room at Watkins.

The Troop plans to submit the 2009 Christmas Angel project as their Bronze Award Project.

Their love, devotion, generosity and fidelity blessed all of us. We salute and thank this special group.

Troop #1118 members are Breanna Cannon, Taylor Ford, Amber Godbehere, Camille Hays, Leilani Lagadi, Ashley Martin, Megan McGrandy, Emma Nowicki, Megan Piotrowski, and Erin Sweeney.

Adult leaders are Sharla Godbehere, Jeanie Hays, Donna Sweeney.

Final 2009 Christmas Tree Angel Project Numbers:

- More than 500 gifts collected
- 20 parish families served
- 19 families received Christmas dinner
- 16 families received Christmas trees and decorations
- 39 adults received clothing and a gift
- 68 children received clothing, shoes and 2 gifts
- \$1,300 in cash and gift cards collected and used for the program
- 60 gifts provided for the SVdP Family Dining Room at Watkins



Members of Girl Scout Troop #1118 assemble Christmas Angels to hang from the tree.



Troop members made regular trips to their storage unit to store gifts.

Defining the 'Worth' of Volunteer Services

By Shirley Smalley

Growing up with two younger sisters, it was common for us to enter into daily — sometimes hourly — negotiations. Our conversations dealt with everything from the borrowing of clothes, shoes and jewelry to the exchanging of chores or covering for one another. Those conversations usually started something like this: "Could you do me a really big favor?"

Almost before the sentence cleared the mouth of the requesting sister, the respondent would reply, "What's it worth to you?"

That is a powerful question! What, exactly, is the worth of an act whereby we freely choose to do something for someone else?

As a volunteer coordinator, I often ponder the worth of

all that our volunteers do for the parish and its programs. According to the latest numbers from the Corporation for National and Community Service, the estimated monetary value of a volunteer hour begins at three times the current minimum wage and goes up to \$150 per hour for skilled volunteer services. So the actual dollar value for each volunteer hour offered at St. Bernadette's is somewhere between \$22 and \$150.

But, as phenomenal as that number is, it does not in any way adequately capture the true value of the volunteer services **each** of you offers to our community.

It is your efforts that help keep the parish going. It is your hands that answer the phones, fold the fliers, do bulk mailings and hand out

bulletins. You share your faith with our children and young people, you cook food for our socials, you donate items for our fundraisers, you support our liturgies and, in so many varied ways, you offer yourself as a sign of God's love to your fellow parishioners.

So the next time I come up and ask you, "Could you do me really big favor?", please know that the favor has a worth beyond expression. The staff, community and I appreciate everything you do!

Only God can access the absolute value of your offering and He — and He alone — knows what He has waiting for those who love and serve Him.

Shirley Smalley, Volunteer Coordinator, can be reached at 480-905-0221 or volunteers@saintbernadette.com.

Are You Current?

Renewals for "Called to Protect for Ministries" are due! All volunteers serving the parish in any ministry must have completed the class and any required renewals.

It is critical that all volunteers ensure they are current. Go online: www.SafeEnvironmentTraining.org and click on "My Obligations" to find out if your renewal is due.

The Lighter Side

Morning prayer: "So far today, Lord, I've done all right. I've not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty or over-indulgent. And I am thankful to you for that.

But ... in a few minutes, Lord, I'm probably going to need a lot more help because I'm going to get out of bed. Amen"

The Volunteer Messenger

Ministry Contacts

Altar Linens: Donna Burns | 602-577-4326
Altar Servers: Dore Sand | 602-485-0169
Annulments: Deacon Jim Hostutler | 602-518-2520
Art & Environment: Sandy Meyers | 480-585-9218
Bereavement: Al Homiski | 480-905-0221
Boy Scouts: Dale Lewis | 602-953-1519
Building Committee: Marty Simmons | 602-953-9748
Children's Liturgy of the Word: Maureen Kotlarz | 480-905-0343
Cursillo Movement: Tony & Noel Szostak | 602-996-2197
Extraordinary Ministries of the Eucharist: Al Homiski | 480-905-0221
Finance Committee: Pat Hoernig | 602-482-0960
Funeral: Linda Flosi | 480-905-0221
Funeral Hospitality: Carol Flood | 602-953-3625
Gently Aging: Dona Lomio | 480-363-5918
Greeters: Tom Horst | 602-953-1063
Hospitality: Shirley Smalley | 480-905-0221
Initiation Adult/Child: Linda Flosi | 480-905-0221
Knights of Columbus: Ken McDonald, Grand Knight | 480-483-7822
La Sagrada Familia: Ken & Yolanda McDonald | 480-483-7822; Rosemary Trummer | 602-971-0312
Lectors: David Riggs | 602-996-6715
Marriage Encounter: Mark & Barbara Moehling | 480-948-7684
Marriage Preparation: Al Homiski | 480-905-0221
Men's Bible Study: Brian Weber | 602-765-0924
Ministers of Care (Homebound): Deacon Jim Hostutler | 480-905-0221
Ministers of Care (Mayo Hospital Ministry): Deacon Ron Little | 602-404-6844
Music Ministry: Craig Colson | 480-905-0221
Natural Family Planning: Armida Escarcega | 602-493-2477
Parish Council: Michael Cordier, President | 602-282-0508
Prayers of the Faithful: Rosemary Simek | 602-788-7960; Mary Canida | 602-996-9396
Religious Education: Melissa Graziano | 480-905-0221
Retrouvaille: Brian & Donna Harris | 602-684-0198
Sacristans: Al Homiski | 602-617-2167
STB Book Club: Brian Weber | 602-765-0924
St. Vincent de Paul: Parish Office | 480-905-0221, x 316
Social Committee: Shirley Smalley | 480-905-0221
Sunday Donuts: Rebecca Logue | 480-609-1444
Ushers: Bill Leicht | 602-788-8254
Volunteers: Shirley Smalley | 480-905-0221
Women's Bible Study: Kim McCann | 602-482-7821
Youth Ministry: Audra Motiejunas | 480-905-0221

Parish Groups Provide Hospitality for Mission

This year's Parish Advent Mission attendees shared food and fellowship courtesy of our SVdP conference, Gently Aging group and Parish Council.

Each group sponsored a night, brought food and helped set up and clean up.

The groups, which also helped with last year's Advent and Lenten missions, provide ongoing support to the parish and are a special blessing to our community. Everything looked beautiful, and the fantastic food provided a warm, enjoyable

environment for parishioners.

Special thanks to Carol Flood, Linda Flosi and Shirley Shanholtz for coordinating the hospitality. If you enjoyed the food and fellowship, give a word of thanks and encouragement to those who made it all possible.

Be a Part of the Newsletter!

Any volunteer groups interested in seeing their activities highlighted in this quarterly newsletter are welcome to submit news items and photos to volunteers@saintbernadette.com.

Please put "Attn: Newsletter" in the subject line of the e-mail, and remember to include the accurate spelling of all names in news items and photos. Also, please include contact information in case there are additional questions. All items will be edited as needed.

This newsletter is for you, so make it your own!

Gently Aging Group Visits Ronald McDonald House, Donates Pull Tabs



The Gently Aging group recently took some time to visit the Ronald McDonald House and present 10 lbs. of pull tabs from soda and beer cans.



The pull tabs delivered by the Gently Aging group are recycled for cash. The money is used to help pay for families to stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their sick child is in the hospital.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... On average, volunteers spend more time at work and with their children than non-volunteers?

... One of the strongest motivating factors for a person to become a volunteer is having someone they respect ask them to do something?

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E-mail:
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[www.saintbernadette.com/
ministries/volunteering](http://www.saintbernadette.com/ministries/volunteering)

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Unless otherwise noted, contact Shirley Smalley for the following activities, 480-902-0221, ext. 211, or e-mail her at volunteers@saintbernadette.com.

- **March 14:** Jewelry making
- **April 2 (a.m.):** Set up chairs for Easter services
- **April 3:** Vigil reception
- **April 5 (a.m.):** Take down chairs from Easter services
- **April 17:** Parish picnic, Rosie Weinstein, 480-596-6645
- **April 30:** Parish dinner auction, Rachel Collins, 602-327-6885
- **May 8:** First Eucharist/confirmation reception
- **May 22:** First Eucharist/confirmation reception

Also, a traditional choir is forming for the Easter season. Call Craig Colson for more details, 480-905-0221, or e-mail him at ccolson@saintbernadette.com.