



Wood begins third year of formation to the permanent diaconate

By Ellen G. Krenke

For almost 30 years, Craig Wood has contemplated religious life.

“I felt the calling of the Holy Spirit a number of times,” said the first-year candidate to the permanent diaconate. “Like Mary, I am finally saying yes, be it done according to Thy Word ... and things have just fallen into place.”

At a ceremony on Sept. 3, Wood was admitted as a candidate to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Donald J. Hying of the Diocese of Madison.

“Thank you for saying yes to the Lord,” Hying said during the ceremony. “Making yourself available and bringing yourself forward not just for yourself, but in loving response to God’s call, to God’s invitation to this vocation and ministry.”

Wood is originally from Wisconsin, but was raised in Glendale, Calif., where he graduated with a radio and television broadcasting and film degree from California State University in Los Angeles.

He worked for several years in radio in Ventura and Riverside counties.

If you ever heard him as a lector here at St. Bernard, you immediately notice his deep, resonate voice.

“All I wanted to be was a radio air personality,” said Wood, who is now an engineer for the local CBS affiliate. “But I realized that a lot of them have that voice ... it is quite a business.”

In 1982, Wood met his wife, Jane, who was visiting California from Wisconsin. And after a long-distance courtship, they decided that he would move to Wisconsin. The couple married here at St. Bernard Parish in 1985 with Fr. Pat Higgins officiating.

“I found a real good home here,” he said.

After he got married, Wood said the idea of entering the permanent diaconate came to him.



St. Bernard parishioner, Craig Wood, center, is pictured here with Fr. Brian Wilk and Bishop Donald J. Hying, who celebrated the Admission to Candidacy on Sept. 3 for several men from the Diocese of Madison, who are in formation for ordination to the permanent diaconate. Please keep Craig and his family in your prayers as he continues his formation!

“I thought about the priesthood and religious life earlier ... (but) this was the first time I started thinking about the ministry.

“And even though I said no to the priesthood, it was almost like the Lord was saying: ‘I’ll be back for you,’” he said. “This is Jesus giving me a second chance.”

Wood made inquiries about the permanent diaconate at the Diocese of Madison and was told that local diaconate candidates get their training from

the Diocese of Lacrosse.

When he was accepted into the program, “I was like a kid on Christmas morning,” he said. “That has died down and that is a good thing, because you want to look at it more objectively. But I can comfortably say yes to it.

“In the last couple of years, I have felt more unworthy of this. I am realizing: Now Lord are you sure you want me? I am a sinner.

“But He called me and I am at the

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Parish mission statement and Advent

We are delighted to present this latest edition of the Bee from St. Bernard Parish.

I hope you enjoy reading it. Please share it with family and neighbors.

My thanks to all who have contributed to putting this together.

A Catholic, Eucharistic community, glorifying God through prayer and service; building oneness with God and neighbor.

Have you ever noticed this sentence on the front of the weekly bulletin?

It is our parish mission statement.

It provides a broad, high level direction that should guide every action, not only of the parish but of our individual lives as well.

Over the course of the past months your parish staff and I have been using this as a point of reflection when we meet.

We simply ask ourselves how have we built oneness with God and neighbor in our everyday activities.

As we head into Advent, the mission statement might provide a good point of reflection for you as well.

Ask yourself, where am I building the oneness with God and neighbor in my life?

In your family, your work, your engagement in the community and parish.

Through our prayer life and service we can together continue to build not only a strong parish family, but also better position ourselves to work to build the Kingdom of God in the broad-

er community.

During Advent, spend some time with our mission statement. Make it your own. Prayer and service are a Christian way of life.

Speaking of Advent, as I say each year – DON'T WASTE ADVENT.

Advent can easily get swallowed up in all the preparations for Christmas.

Advent is a time of devout and expectant delight. It is about discerning the presence of the Savior in our world.



How can we welcome Christ in new ways into our world?

How can we be people of stronger prayer and service through this renewed awareness of Christ?

Some things to think about as the new church year begins.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for St. Bernard's.

May God's blessing be with each of you in the days ahead, Fr. Brian



Join us for our fourth annual **Winterfest** from 6-8 p.m., Feb. 29 in the parish center.

The event includes food and drinks, games, including bingo, a silent auction, a basket raffle, a 50-50 raffle and fellowship with other St. Bernard families.

Watch the bulletin for more details!

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The Bee

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Contributors: Rev. Brian Wilk, Ellen Krenke and Laurie Zimmerman.

The Bee is a quarterly publication of St. Bernard Catholic Church.



2019 Advent and Christmas season schedule

Holy Day Masses and Reconciliation Schedule

Private Confessions

Saturday, Dec. 7	3:45-4:45 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14	3:45-4:45 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21	3:45-4:45 p.m.

Private Confessions with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, Dec. 5	5-6 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 11	7 p.m. (As part of "An Hour with Jesus")
Tuesday, Dec. 17	6-7 p.m.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24	4 p.m., Children's Choir, 6 p.m., Youth Choir, 9 p.m., Adult Choir
Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
The Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 29	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Vigil for Solemnity of Mary, Dec. 31	5:00 p.m.
Solemnity of Mary, Wednesday, Jan. 1	9:00 a.m.

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point now where I am saying I am a sinner, but I trust in your mercy and love.

“You made too many things fall into place already. They cannot be coincidences. Too many things have happened that have pointed to you wanting me here for a reason.”

Wood also knows that he will be discerning this calling until ordination.

“It just gets better all the time. I feel drawn to it,” he said. “I love people. I care about each one of us. I care about each one of our souls.”

Wood explained that during his first two years in the program, he was considered “aspiring.”

After those two years, he went through a re-admission process that included several interviews for both Wood and his wife to determine if he was suitable for candidacy.

Now, he is considered a first-year candidate, but it is his third year in the program.

“It has been a very uplifting, and I owe a lot to Jane,” he said. “She has been tremendously supportive. She has been wonderful about this. God bless her!”

Wood said marriage has taught him “a lot of good things” that he plans to use in the diaconate.

“I’m just grateful the Vatican decided to start training people from the secular world to do some priestly functions,” he said.

Wood said the diaconate is a “gift” and he looks forward to being an extension of Fr. Brian here at St. Bernard.

“He is doing the work of two or three priests,” he said. “So, any way that I can take the pressure off ... and help out as needed.”

“He will be an extra hand for me in some areas, (and) I really look forward to getting some help,” said Fr. Brian adding: “Thank you for your vocation.”

This year, Wood is expected to complete several different modules as a candidate here at St. Bernard, including catechesis and evangelization, marriage and family life and how to run a parish.

Wood said the parish’s support means everything to him.

“Prayerful support is necessary for any path in life. And I need everyone’s prayers to do this work. For me to serve them, without prayerful support from the community and without my continuing to pray intently -- it won’t work. So, I don’t just ask for prayers. I need them!”

Throughout his life, Wood has followed the same advice that he freely gives to our religious education students.

“At the moment you get some thought or inkling (about religious life), listen! Follow through! You will not regret it. Continue your journey with Christ.”



Above photo: Bishop Donald J. Hying reads the Rites of Admission to Candidacy during a ceremony on Sept. 3 in the Holy Name chapel in Madison. Fr. Brian is in the foreground of the photo. Below photo: St. Bernard parishioner Craig Wood gets a minute to talk to Bishop Hying after the ceremony.



Our History

Parish center: A dream comes true for parish in the 1980s

By Ellen G. Krenke

As St. Bernard Parish grew, the need for a larger gathering place was highlighted during every parish function.

"It was very hard to work in the basement kitchen, but we had a group of four to five women who could put out a funeral dinner like you wouldn't believe," said Tom Theis of our maintenance staff. "They made dinner with one stove, no microwave and no dishwasher.

"There wasn't a lot of space, but we still had a Palm Sunday dinner down there and our spaghetti dinner down there.

"They would spend all day making meatballs, and they used the boiler room to do dishes and heat up the sauce.

"It was a lot of work, but I never heard a complaint. They did an excellent job. The basement was unique in its way, but we didn't know any different."

Donna (Maly) Cushman, a long-time parishioner who organized many of the meals at St. Bernard, said the old kitchen was challenging.

"We never could have done it without everyone working together," she said. "When you were washing the dishes ... you really got to know your fellow parishioners!"

The number of families in the parish in 1950 was 350, in 1984 the parish consisted of about 1,100 families, 1,500 memberships and about 4,000 total members, said Fr. Joseph "Pat" Higgins, the pastor here from 1981-2002.

"The rapid growth of St. Bernard's Parish family during the past decade and more, moved the parish council to initiate plans for a center some years ago," according to a press release from the parish. "The present kitchen and hall in the school building were not adequate for parish needs."

The building of a parish center had been a topic of discussion in the parish since 1976, and using the space between the religious education building and the church was considered, according to the



The ground-breaking for St. Bernard's new parish center was held on July 15, 1984. The event included from left to right: Christin Amans, who represented the parish youth; Cathy Rowley, parish trustee; John Russert, parish council president; Larry Breunig, chairman of the parish building committee; Douglas Brown, construction manager from the Oscar J. Boldt Construction company; Marvin Ganser, chairman of the parish finance committee; Rollie Williamson, architect with Bowen William Zimmermann Architects and Angela Amans.

parish history.

"The parish center has been a dream and a need of the parish for many years," Higgins told the *Middleton Times-Tribune*. "Back in 1948, when the school was built, the parish wanted to build a dining room and a kitchen in the school, but at that time there wasn't enough money and the needed facilities were never built.

In the fall of 1983, the issue was again considered by the Finance and Property Commission.

The Property Commission created a building sub-committee with Lawrence Breunig as chairman; Fr. Higgins, pastor; Douglas Brown (the construction supervisor from the Oscar Boldt Company); Delores Acker; John Beuchner; Russell Hildebrandt; Mickey Nelson and Gene Zander.

In September, the sub-committee sent a survey to the potential users of the proposed center, including the Council of Catholic Women, Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, the parish staff,

the 5-0 Club and the funeral dinner group.

One group wanted to know: "Will there still be burners to make our tomato sauce? We still need a heavy duty stove. Cooler space is needed for the tomato sauce and for the meat balls."

After studying the results of their survey, the building sub-committee determined that a building of about 9,000 square feet would fulfill the needs now and in the future, according to parish records.

"We wanted to maintain the same appearance of the school and we didn't want to detract from the church by making the center too large," Higgins said. "What the committee came up with, therefore, was a building that fit attractively between the school and the church facing University Avenue with an enclosed walkway that connected the school the church and the center."

A valuable piece of property had been inherited from the Lampe estate and parishioners were responding well to "God's Plan for Church

Support," so the parish council gave its approval on July 12, 1984 and a ground-breaking ceremony was held three days later.

Permission to build was also granted by Bishop Cletus O'Donnell of the Diocese of Madison.

The architectural firm of Bowen Williamson and Zimmermann of Madison designed the building, which was finished in January 1985.

To celebrate, the parish held a dance on Saturday, March 16, 1985 and a blessing and reception after the noon Mass the next day.

The original estimate for construction was \$612,000, the original bid was \$597,921, but the actual cost was \$650,919, according to our parish council minutes from March 21, 1985.

The cost of the new parish center increased because of some add-ons, but because of the size of the parish and the improved economy "the parish felt that it could finally afford the center at this point in its history," Higgins told the *Times-Tribune*.

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Above photos: Construction on the new parish center took six months. Below photo: Fr. Higgins speaks during the dedication of the new parish center as Bishop Cletus O'Donnell of the Diocese of Madison and Msgr. Ferdinand Mack, the first pastor of St. Bernard, look on.

'We need a place to celebrate'

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The building consists of 9,600 square feet, and the main dining room seats 400 persons.

A meeting room that can be closed off with a curtain wall or exposed to present a stage for bands is another feature of the building.

The restroom, bride's room and huge kitchen completed the structure.

"Now the first-class, fully equipped and modern parish center is a reality and the ladies of the parish who have waited for over 40 years finally have a decent kitchen," said Higgins.

"We can now provide facilities for both a funeral dinner and another function if we need to because we still have the school hall which has a small kitchen to use as back up."

The first major event to be held in the center was the annual spaghetti dinner in January 1985.

"It made it a lot easier, because everything was on one level," said Cushman.

Since that time, the parish center has been used for the annual Palm Sunday dinners, wedding and wedding anniversary receptions, funeral dinner, week day Masses, RE, Five-O meetings and many other dinner, meetings and celebrations.

"It has been the center of parish life and an asset to the community," according to the parish history.

Along with the construction of the new center, the parish

also landscaped and redeveloped the parking lot, which now provides 170 parking spots.

"In the life of a parish it is not enough to celebrate Mass together, but we need to celebrate in a social way," Higgins said in the press release.

"We need to tell each other that we care for one another, that we want to know each other and help each other.

"St. Bernard's is a large and sometimes impersonal parish. I hope this new building will help bring us all closer together.

"We are sisters and brothers in the Lord. We need a place to celebrate that fact."



Our Community

Prayer Chain Network: Connecting our parish through prayer

By Ellen G. Krenke

Much has been said and written on the subject of prayer.

But all those who pray generally agree: Prayer changes things.

And the more prayers that are being said for a particular intention, the better!

For that reason, Barb Bohringer recently asked fellow members of the Rosary Makers group to pray for a family member who underwent a medical procedure.

Sue Ziegler of the Living Rosary also called on her ministry to pray for her two family members, who needed some extra prayers.

Meanwhile, Sharon Braem, who is a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, was trying to get a prayer chain started here at St. Bernard.

So, the three decided to join forces.

"I just thought we needed more outreach here at St. Bernard, and this is one way to reach out to the parish," said Braem.

Braem said when her daughter, Sara, was five years old, she was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.

"I felt the whole congregation praying for us," she said. "She came out quite well, and I have to believe that it was through the prayers of all these people.

"Everybody needs prayers ... no matter the situation. And as I age, more friends are going through challenges. I personally know so many people who need prayers."

Braem said many people try to keep



their needs private, but she believes they should ask for prayers. "Let people know! I may not know how to help them, but I do know they need prayers."

Braem said she hopes the prayer chain network will make a difference in people's lives.

"I want it to help them through their challenges. We may not get results we pray for, but you ... have to believe in the power of prayer."

Ziegler was previously involved in a prayer chain at St. Thomas the Apostle

parish in Poynette.

"I was both a prayer warrior - that is what we called each other - and was also the recipient of many prayers," she said. "It is a very humbling experience to know that people were praying for me during a very dark and scary time in my life."

After the Living Rosary celebration in October, Ziegler started talking to her group about the possibility of forming a prayer chain.

"I would definitely like the members of the Living Rosary to be involved in this--they would be all for this," Ziegler said. "I have had the honor of meeting and getting to know some prayer warriors at St. Bernard! There are many!"

To submit a prayer intention, provide one of the organizers listed below with the name of the person you would like prayers for (either full name or first name), the reason for the prayer (again you can provide as much information as you are comfortable or ask for a "Special Intention") and finally your contact information in case the organizers have any questions about your request.

Prayer intentions will be added to the "Prayer Chain Network" webpage at stbmid.org/prayer-chain-network-1.

Also, if you would like to join the prayer chain network, please contact one of the three organizers: Sharon Braem at scbraem@tds.net or 608-335-9001; Barb Bohringer at barbarabohringer2@gmail.com or 608-516-7808; or Jan Brady at brady4032@sbcglobal.net or 608-203-9757.

Miska chooses Dominican study, prayer, ministry, community

By Sr. Rhonda Miska, OP

"Spirituality, simple living, social justice, community?"

Well, that pretty much sounds like what I am about - or, at least, what I am striving to be about."

I clearly remember thinking this as a college senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

A recruiter for the Jesuit Volunteers had come to the Newman Center to connect with students after the weekly Wednesday night Mass.

When she described the four core values of the Jesuit Volunteers, something in me clicked.

Clearly, the values of spirituality, simple living, social justice, and community were still central.

This wasn't something I was going to "get out of my system" in my 20s.

Rather, these values continued to shape my life and my choices well into my 30s.

While most of my friends were moving in the direction of marriage, motherhood, funding their retirement plans and/or buying a home, I couldn't seem to make my life fit into that mold.

This inner tug that life as a Catholic Sister might be a fit - which had been present ever since I was a kid - hadn't gone away.

In the greatest leap of faith thus far in my life, I turned down a promotion, quit my job, moved into the basement of a family from my parish and patched together enough income from catering, language tutoring and freelance writing to support myself financially until I got my next steps figured out.

I made discernment of God's call the

primary focus of my life, and within a few months left to move into a mother-house with a community of Sisters.

I finally had summoned the courage to really discern a call to religious life, but the number of different communities out there were overwhelming.

I hadn't gone to Catholic schools and hadn't grown up knowing Sisters.

In looking through websites and vocation guide magazines, I could envision myself lots of places.

I prayed for guidance and continued to meet with my spiritual director with my "discernment antennae" up.

As I searched, the Dominicans (also known as the Order of Preachers) came on my radar screen.

I contacted a Dominican vocation director who sent me some promotional

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You don't have to go to the meetings to join a parish ministry!

You don't have to go to the meetings (or get a babysitter) to be a part of a ministry here at St. Bernard.

"New members are always welcome at our Rosary Makers meetings," said Barb Bohringer, who leads the group. "But if you work during the daytime hours and would like to help make rosaries for our missions, we would accommodate you!"

Bohringer said a member of the group would meet with you at your convenience and get you started making rosaries.

"As a member, you are not required to attend our meetings," she said.

"We have a high school student who makes rosaries in his spare time and a home bound person who just wants something to do to make the days go by faster."

For more information about Rosary Makers, contact Bohringer at 608-836-1236.

Also as a member of the Living Rosary, there are no regular meetings for you to attend.

However, you would be required to recite a decade of the rosary every day -- whenever and wherever you are available. For more information, contact Diane Zander at 608-831-5167.

The Prayer Shawl ministry meets every second Wednesday of the month, but you are not required to attend their meetings to be a member.



Simply knit or crochet your prayer shawls and place them in the collection bins located at the church entrances.

Other prayer shawl members will attach a "Made by the St. Bernard Prayer Shawl ministry" tag and add them to the prayer shawl hope chest, which is available during Coffee Sundays in the parish center and at the back of church.

For more information, contact Sharon Braem at 608-335-9001 or Laurie Zimmerman at 608-215-6894.

The two meal programs for Luke House and the Catholic Multicultural Center also need people who can supply various food items, which can be dropped off at the parish office during the week or in the parish center kitchen after weekend Masses. Just watch for those announcements in the bulletin!

As you can see, there are a myriad of opportunities to get involved in the ministries here at St. Bernard. You just have to be willing to raise your hand!

Weekend food program expands to middle school students

By Ellen G. Krenke

This year, the Weekend Food Program for the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD) has expanded to include Glacier Creek Middle School and the Middleton Youth Center, which serves Kromrey Middle School.

"This has been a real successful endeavor," said Georgine Jacobs, the Snack Pack coordinator for St. Bernard. "And people feel real good about it."

The food program is led by several local churches, including St. Bernard Parish, and the school district's social workers. Middleton Outreach Ministry consults the group.

It was started with two elementary schools three years ago and has expanded to all six elementary schools.

St. Bernard Parish currently provides weekend snacks to Elm Lawn and Northside elementary schools.

More than 140 MCPASD elementary students participated in the program in 2018-1019, according to the school district.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church kicked off Winter 2019

the first semester for the middle school students.

"They want to see what shakes out," said Jacobs, who added that St. Bernard and the other churches will take turns providing the weekend snacks in December and January.

Much of the food comes from the Second Harvest Foodbank of Wisconsin, but all of the local churches are expected to help with the additional costs for expanding the program.

Jacobs encourages parishioners to make a donation in a marked envelope and place it in the collection basket during Mass.

St. Bernard program also needs drawstring bags for their weekend program. These are the bags that you get at 5K races or various kids events. Please place any extra bags that you have in the collection bins located at the church entrances.

"If we ... get together on a few things, we will be a stronger community," said Fr. Brian.

At their organizational meeting in

The Bee

September, Fr. Brian commended the volunteers for their commitment to the program.

"Thank you for getting involved," he said. "When Georgine first talked about this three years ago, our biggest worry was getting people to do it."

"The outpouring from this parish for this program in terms of personnel and financial support have been amazing. It is such a community thing ... we are part of the community doing this."

"The collaboration between the public schools and the churches involved ... you won't find that in other cities," said Fr. Brian. "To me, that is an amazing thing ... a tribute to the city of Middleton and the school district that they are so willing to do this."

Finally, Fr. Brian said the program has been a blessing for the parish as well as the children and families involved.

"It is the parish coming together, but it is the community in a broader sense. In a way, we are out evangelizing by what we do ... being Christ to others and by our actions and that is so important."

Our People

Jinja's cookies are highlight of SVdP cookie extravaganza

By Ellen G. Krenke

The cookie extravaganza is the largest fundraiser for our St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Conference here at St. Bernard.

And the cookies made by Jinja Nonn, a SVdP member, are the top sellers at the sale.

"It is very joyful work," she said. "It is a great fundraiser, and people like it. I like it!"

Nonn started making cookies for the sale about three years ago.

And each year she makes two or three dozen of nine different cookies.

"She has kept the cookie sale afloat," said Rod Niles, the event organizer. "And the variety is fantastic!"

Her favorite cookies are shortbread, cranberry-orange pinwheels, almond cookies, chocolate pinwheels (because they are so pretty), and decorated sugar cookies.

A few days before the sale, which will be held on the weekend of Dec. 14-15 this year, Nonn will start making the batter for each cookie and let them chill in the refrigerator overnight.

On the second day, she will start rolling out the dough and baking them.

On the last day, she decorates the sugar cookies.

"I have collected lots of cookie cutters and food colorings," she said. "I also have a special roller that helps me roll out the dough nice and even."

Nonn said she is happy that parishioners enjoy her cookies.

"I drop off my cookies and the next time I come in they are gone. I thought, 'I should make some more.' It was very encouraging."

Nonn, who is originally from Mongolia, moved to Middleton in 2002.

She worked for several area families as a caregiver, and one of those people, Lynda Cooper, taught her how to make cookies.

"I did not know how to make cookies," Nonn said. "She gave me all of her recipes and told me how to make them.

"This was the first time in my life that I had ever made cookies, and they turned out very good."

In addition to the cookie lesson, Nonn was taught another valuable skill.

Another person she cared for taught her several prayers.

"I had no religion before," she said. "I had no orientation, but Mr. O'Brien taught me lots of prayers."

The first prayer that he taught to her was the "Hail Mary."



Jinja Nonn, sitting left, is surrounded by her cookie-making friends after a recent St. Vincent de Paul meeting. The group's annual Cookie Extravaganza will be held on Dec. 14-15 in the parish center.

"I learned it and I thought, 'I should become ... a Catholic.'"

So, in 2012 Nonn took a class with Msgr. Douglas Dushack, our former pastor, and was baptized and confirmed here at St. Bernard.

After joining the church, she immediately joined the St. Bernard's SVdP group along with her husband, Mike, who was already a member.

Nonn said she enjoys working with SVdP, because she enjoys helping others.

"We do good work in the community," she said. "It's not hard work, but we do what we can to help others."

In addition to making cookies for the cookie sale, Nonn also makes cakes for the monthly birthday parties that our

SVdP Society hosts for residents of Port St. Vincent, a men's home in Madison.

During home visits, Nonn said she enjoys talking to her clients and getting to know them and how SVdP can help them.

But Nonn, who says she is a shy person, doesn't want this story to be all about her.

She encourages everyone to come to the cookie sale and try the cookies made by the many bakers in our parish, because it is for a good cause.

"If you don't have any time to bake cookie, just buy cookies," she said. "And if you have the time, please bake some cookies for our sale."

"St. Bernard parishioners know we are fundraising and they help us ... that is why I like the cookie sale!"

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materials.

I remember reading about the four pillars of Dominican life: study, prayer, community, and ministry?

Well, that pretty much sounds like what I am about – or, at least, what I am striving to be about," I thought as I reflected on the material.

Fast forward five more years: I have completed the initial stages of membership, including candidacy and novitiate with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa.

In July, I made my first profession of vows. Looking back, I can see a through line over the course of my life.

Though I don't know what the road ahead holds, these core values, and now the Dominican pillars and my vows as a consecrated Religious Sister have given shape and form to my life and continue to draw me towards conversion to Christ.

For this, I am deeply grateful.

(Sr. Rhonda Miska was born and raised in Middleton and was a parishioner here at St. Bernard. Her parents, Ken and Claudia, are still parishioners here. She currently lives in community in Chicago and ministers at Dominican University, where she teaches and offers spiritual direction to students, and as a research assistant at Catholic Theological Union.)

St. Bernard's rosary stories published by McFarland Parish

Six years ago, Christ the King Parish in McFarland published a booklet of stories about the rosary written by their parishioners.

The following year, parishioners invited their friends and relatives to write their stories about the rosary, and in the following years the booklet has expanded to include stories from 32 parishes in the Diocese of Madison.

This year, three St. Bernard parishioners, Laurie Zimmerman, Angie Lundgren and Barb Bohringer, contributed stories to the publication.

"I invite you to read these stories and be inspired by the many blessings you also can receive from a devotion to the Rosary," Fr. Steve Smith, the pastor of Christ the King parish, writes in the introduction.

Zimmerman's story is titled, "You can trust that Mother Mary and Jesus are active in our lives."

She writes: As a member of Mary's Rosary Assemblers of Christ the King Parish in McFarland, I was attending our monthly meeting, and Julie Allington mentioned that she would be going to St. Bernard's parish in Middleton to give a talk there about our group and mission.

"On an inspirational whim (Mary's doing, I am convinced), I offered to go with her, sort of as a cheering section. Julie's talk went well; we were welcomed warmly by St. Bernard's group – Our Lady's Rosary Makers; and I left after meeting some wonderful people.

"Little did I know what Mary and Our Lord had in store for the future.

"On Mother's Day 2017, my husband, Jim, mentioned that there were a few open houses on the west side of Madison (we were looking to downsize) and since we were going to our daughter's condo for lunch, perhaps we should take a look.

"So we did, and the place we saw just didn't fit. Then my husband said, "Well, there's one more in Middleton – should we go? And we did, and this time I could definitely see myself living there.

"Throughout this time, I was praying the Rosary and asking Mary for guidance. We eventually did move to that condo, and ended up as parishioners at St. Bernard's – the very parish Julie and I had visited months prior. I am now a member of Our Lady's Rosary Makers, as well as their Living Rosary Group, and I thank the Lord that He sent His Mother Mary to show me the way and to guide each and every one of our steps.

"May each of you trust the Mary and Jesus are working every day in our lives – we just need to be faithful disciples. I



echo the words of St. Therese of Lisieux: "May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be."

Lundgren's story is titled, "Meditating on the Life of Jesus while praying the Rosary."

She writes: "At an early age, I was taught how to pray the Rosary. Meditating on the life of Our Lord was a daily occurrence in my home and at the boarding school.

"My visit to the Holy Land deepened my thoughts. Visiting the Garden of Gethsemane, the River Jordan and Cana at Galilee was inspirational.

"Then came the Luminous Mysteries in 2002. I pray the Transfiguration of Our Lord decade with much devotion as I was married 45+ years ago at the Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Montreal.

"Being a member of the Living Rosary Group at St. Bernard's, I have not only made new friends, but I take great pleasure in praying the Rosary for the deceased members of our parish."

Bohringer's story is titled, "Mary's Powerful Prayer."

She writes: "My most precious part of growing up with thoughts of the Rosary was when I made my First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church in Bloomington, Wis.

"It was the most beautiful, special day of my prayer life. We really worked to understand how holy this day was. My Mom made my dress and veil and gave me this lovely white purse with a flower under plastic. It held my first

rosary, prayer book and scapular. I learned to say what I would call the simple Rosary.

"Prayer was always important in our family of 11. We never missed the prayer before and after meals and we prayed them as a family.

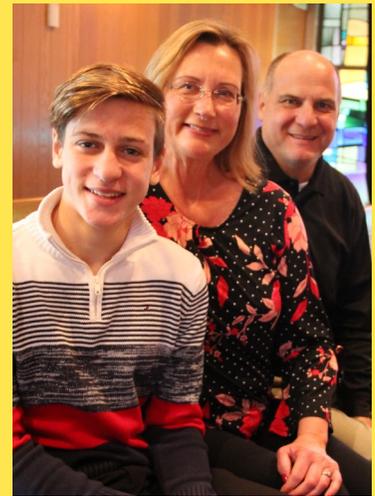
"When I grew up, relocated to Middleton, joined St. Bernard's Parish and retired, I had more free time. I joined the Madonna Rosary Makers of St. Bernard's in Middleton where I met Jo Meier. She was the facilitator of the Rosary Makers until she decided that I needed to take her place. She was a sweetheart and taught me the very correct steps in making rosaries.

"During our meetings, we always pray the Rosary for special intentions. It was then that I really learned the Mysteries and why we say them on special days as we do.

"Praying the Rosary is really our Blessed Mother's most powerful prayer. We need to continue saying the Rosary for peace and getting our world back to our number one priority: God. Mary leads the way."

To get a copy of the booklet, contact Julie Allington at 715-862-2523 or julieallington@gmail.com.

In the News



The Shulla family joined St. Bernard Parish about 15 years ago. Andy has helped with the spaghetti dinner, Lynn is a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry and the Snack Pack program and prepares food for funeral lunches, and their son, Daniel, is an usher at Sunday Mass.

"We love the sense of community at St. Bernard's," said Lynn. "It takes a lot of people to make the parish run so smoothly and so many people step to the plate to make it happen. We are blessed!"

Our Children



Congratulations to high school students from St. Bernard parish who were confirmed Oct. 30 here at St. Bernard with Bishop Donald J. Hying of the Diocese of Madison officiating. St. Peter in Ashton and St. Martin in Martinsville students were also confirmed at the liturgy with our parish teens. Please keep these wonderful young people in your prayers as they continue to explore their faith!

Bishop to teens: Go to Mass, pray, live virtuously, serve

By Ellen G. Krenke

If we do not have the Holy Spirit, we are not fully plugging into God, Bishop Donald J. Hying of the Diocese of Madison told a group of about 50 high school students during their Confirmation held Oct. 30 here at St. Bernard.

“You can have the greatest smart phone in the world, but if the battery is dead it doesn't matter because you can't access it,” he said. “So it is with the Holy Spirit. If we do not have the Spirit, we are not fully plugging into God.”

So, how do we do this? How do we live this gift that He has given us? How do we embrace this call that the Lord has offered to us?

First of all, by making a “strong and steady” commitment to always being a participant in Mass.

“We have discovered as Catholics, it is in this Eucharist that we hear God speak His word to us and that we share in His death and resurrection and that we receive His sacred body from the altar: amazing things for 57 minutes on a Sunday morning.

“He asks for one hour back, and when we show up He fills that hour with gifts and with graces and blessings and the power and beauty of the Eucharist.”

Mass is part of our life as Catholics and as disciples of Jesus, Hying said.

“So ... fast forward about five or six years. You are away at college. You're out late on Saturday night. You are tempted to sleep in on Sunday and not go to church. Your mother isn't standing over you saying get up and go.

“At that moment, picture me standing over you saying get up

and go, get up and go to church, get up and live Jesus, get up and proclaim the gospel, get up and live the beauty of this faith that we have received. It is such a precious treasure.”

Secondly, we live out this discipleship by being committed to prayer.

“Not just a prayer before a meal or a test or a game, not just pulling God out of box when we need some extra help ... but a lively discussion with the Lord every day.

“Whether it is with the rosary or the Bible or a prayer to the Blessed Sacrament or talking to God in our own words.

“Do not let a day go by that where we don't spend at least some time conversing with the one who made us and the one who saves us and with the Holy Spirit the one who sanctifies us.”

Thirdly, to live a life of virtue.

“We live in a world today that is many ways is frightened and conflicted and divided and violent and difficult.

“It is into that world where so many people are hurting and wounded where there is so much poverty and suffering.

“It is into that world that you are sent to be light and to be salt ... to be the life of Christ. And that is probably how it has always been. It has never been easy to be a Christian, but it has always been fulfilling.

“And when we embrace virtue and we live a life of purity and patience, compassion and kindness, of peacemaking and power, of service and joy that we give witness to all those around us about what makes us tick and that is Jesus Christ and His saving gospel.

Continued on page 11

Is your training like Catholic boot camp?

Wood answers questions from St. Bernard fourth-graders

By Ellen G. Krenke

It was Craig Wood's turn to face a gauntlet of questions from the fourth-graders on a blustery Sunday in October.

"I prayed to the Holy Spirit about this," said the first-year candidate to the diaconate. "I just didn't want to say anything that was wrong."

Wood was able to stay on topic, "What is a deacon," for a few minutes in the beginning.

But then the barrage began.

Questions and answers peppering him from both sides of the room and at the same time:

"Are deacons married?"

"Priests aren't married."

"The pope isn't married."

"Is your training like Catholic boot camp, not military boot camp?"

"There is no physical training, but we do have a lot of reading and other homework to do," said Wood.

"That sounds like my mother's law homework. She doesn't even have time to make dinner," offered one of the students.

"Does it ever get boring?"

"No, because it is preparing me to help people become better Catholics," said Wood.

"Do Jesus, Mary and Joseph live together in heaven?"

"Yes, they were a real family and they live together in heaven," answered Wood.

"There was a rumor after 9-11 that Jesus knew where Osama Bin Laden was hiding."

"Well, Jesus knows lots of things," Wood said.

One of the teachers asked for an explanation of Anointing of the Sick.

Then one of the students said her father has skin cancer and asked if Anointing of the Sick would help him.

Wood said it would help anyone who is sick or suffering.

"What is it called when a priest blesses a house?"

"There is no formal name," Wood said. "But a priest will come to your home and bless it for you and pray that it will protect you and keep you safe."

"From dark energy?" asked one of the boys.

"From anything that could harm you," answered Wood.

Finally, Wood took a deep breath and ended with this message:

"Always keep your mind on God, and He will always protect you."

"Do God a favor and go to Confession regularly," he said.

"Every time you go ... it strengthens your soul."

"God is waiting for us in heaven, so live a good life, go to church and be good people."

BISHOP from page 10

"So live a life of virtue ... that not only draws you closer to the Lord but gives witness to others of this person, this son of God that you have found."

Hying told the students that they are called to carry this gospel of Christ to the end of the 21st century.

"Long after some of us are gone, you will be busily living your faith," he said.

"So tonight you are given that fire and spirit to go into the world and draw others into discipleship and into service and into a relationship with God."

"So tonight's Confirmation isn't just about you and Jesus. It's also about you being sent to be a witness of the Gospel to others."

"Who knows, there may be somebody's salvation, somebody's eternal salvation that is somehow bound up in the fact that you get confirmed tonight, that you say yes to Christ tonight, that you become a fully anointed disciple of the Lord tonight."

And fourthly, prepare yourself for a life of service.



Bishop Hying asked each student about the saint that they chose for their Confirmation name.

"Many of you have done service projects for school or through church or for Confirmation."

"Isn't that great when we do something for another person, to go out of our way, to pour ourselves out, make a sacrifice and we don't get anything out of it. We don't do it to get paid ... or do it to get noticed ... we just do it for the sake of love?"

"And when we do that God uses that action no matter how small to pour forth

his mercy and compassion and life into the world. So, just keep doing that."

"In fact, dedicate your whole life to service, and whatever you do with your life, make it an act of service to God and others."

"Because that's what life is about, giving your life away, making a gift of ourselves and then handing it over."

Hying encouraged the students to give themselves fully to the Lord.

"Give Him everything, give Him your family and friends, give Him your sports and ... give Him your homework, give Jesus your fears and anxieties, give Him your hopes and ... even give Him your sins."

"Because when we give everything to Christ, life becomes abundant for us."

"We discover what life is about: that we are beloved children of God and we are called to live in this world as a new creation."

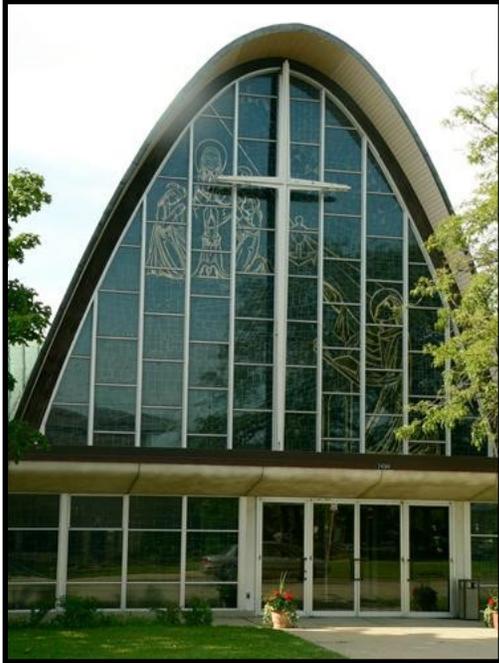
Finally, Hying said he was proud of the students for saying yes to God.

"Sometimes this world can seem to drown out the voice of God ... you have heard that gentle ... voice saying I love you, saying follow me, saying be confirmed and you said yes ... to the Lord who will always be faithful to us."

"Tonight is not just a ceremony. It's not a graduation."

"Tonight is a glorious beginning. The beginning of a full secure life ... the beginning of a life lived passionately and well with Christ as your purpose ... (and) as your promise as you receive Him."

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Website at www.stbmidd.org.
If you have any comments or
suggestions, please contact us
at 608-829-5872.

Calendar of upcoming events at St. Bernard Catholic Church

December

4 - Luke House
5 - SVdP Meeting
7 - First Reconciliation
9 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
10 - KC Christmas Party
11 - Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
11 - An Hour with Jesus
14-15 - SVdp Cookie Extravaganza
16 - Human Needs Meeting
16 - CMC Meal Program
25 - Christmas
29 - Nativity of the Lord
31 - New Year's Eve

January

1 - New Year's Day
2 - SVdP Meeting
6 - Reach More
8 - Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
8 - An Hour with Jesus
14 - KC Officer Meeting
20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20 - CMC Meal Program
23 - Parish Council Meeting
28 - KC Rosary and Meeting

February

2 - First Communion Parent Meeting
3 - Reach More
5 - Luke House Meal
6 - SVdP Meeting
11 - KC Officer Meeting
12 - Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
12 - An Hour with Jesus
14 - Valentine's Day
17 - President's Day
17 - CMC Meal Program
25 - KC Rosary and Meeting
26 - Ash Wednesday
29 - Winterfest