



Middleton, WI

St. Bernard Catholic Church

Summer 2018

Simon joins Badger Honor Flight for ‘trip of a lifetime’

By Ellen G. Krenke

When Hank Simon walked away from a mortar attack in Vietnam, he knew that God had other plans for him.

“It wasn’t my time to go I guess,” said the 21-year Army veteran. “I am here for a purpose ... helping other people is the most important thing in my life.”

On May 12, Simon joined about 90 other Wisconsin veterans for a Badger Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

On these trips, veterans from World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam as well as terminally ill veterans from any war had the opportunity to see the memorials that have been erected in their honor.

Simon said he looked forward to seeing the monuments, especially the Vietnam Wall, which includes the names of his West Point classmates who were killed in action.

A stroke three years ago weakened Simon’s left side, so he used a cane during the trip. He also suffers from the “residuals from Agent Orange.”

“I have a few things left over from Vietnam,” Simon said.

When they returned to Dane County Regional Airport at the end of the day, friends and families held a “Welcome Home” ceremony, which “we didn’t get after Vietnam,” Simon said.

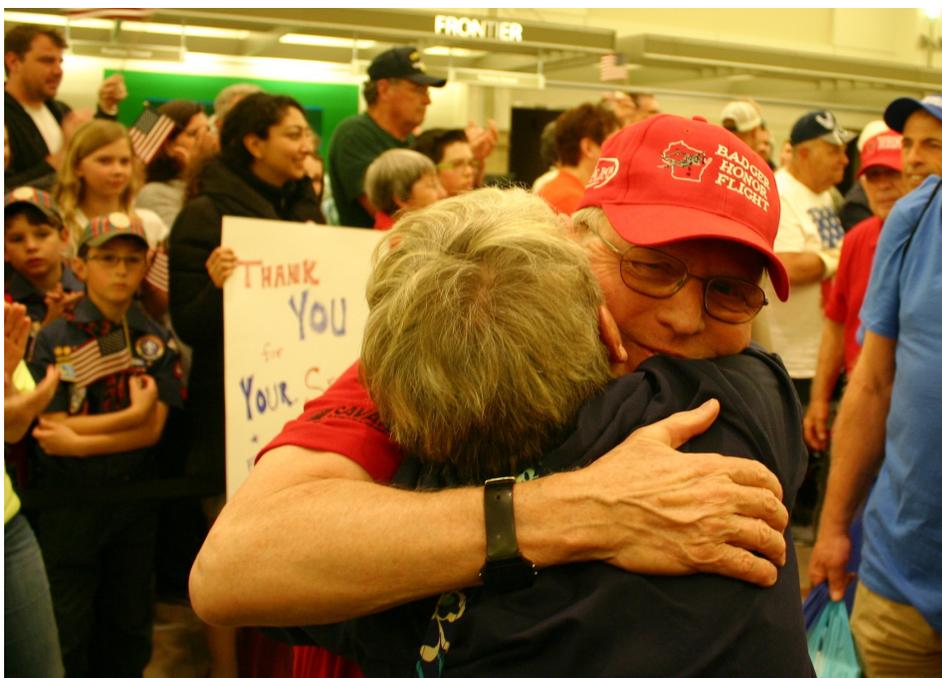
Simon was in the Army from 1966 to 1987. He graduated from West Point in 1966 as an artillery officer.

After Ranger and Airborne School at Fort Bragg, N.C., Simon was sent to Bamberg, Germany.

He then got orders for Vietnam, where he was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Their headquarters was located in Xuan Loc in the Third Corps area of southern Vietnam.

“I don’t remember a lot ... I chose to forget it,” Simon said. “But I do remem-



Hank Simon hugs his wife, Judy, at the Dane County Regional Airport on May 12. Family and members of his Small Faith Group surprised him at the airport event. See related story on page 7.

ber the smell ... it was a very strong decaying smell, because it is so hot and humid in Vietnam.”

After Vietnam, Simon went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for graduate school. He then taught geography and geology at West Point for three years.

West Point was followed by assignments to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Fort Polk, La., Fort Sheridan, Ill., and finally Fort McCoy, Wis.

While in the service, Simon said he enjoyed helping his fellow service members.

“As an officer and a commander, I was always in charge of something or somebody, and there were more people

to care for each time I got a new command position. I was most proud of trying to help people ... who had problems while they were in the service.”

When he retired from the Army as a major in 1987, he sent his engineering resume to several cities in Wisconsin.

His first civilian job was in Ashland, Wis., as the public works director and city engineer.

After three years, Simon decided it was too quiet in Ashland, so he applied for the same position here in Middleton and got the job. He worked for the city of Middleton for 13 years and retired in 2003.

At St. Bernard, Simon and his wife
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From the Pastor's Desk

Welcome to the latest edition of "The Bee."

Please share it with family and friends as together we spread the good news of St. Bernard's throughout the community.

As I write this, we have just completed First Communion in our parish.

In the homily at the Sunday Masses in which our young people received the Body of Christ for the first time, I said I am always encouraged by the presence of all the generations in attendance.

This is true not only at the First Communion liturgies, but throughout the year as well. It is of particular note at First Communion however.

Parents, grandparents, great grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, siblings all coming together to take part in the joy of receiving the Body of Christ.

As I said in my homily, we all need to remember the joy we felt when we first received communion, but also work to maintain that joy each time we do receive.

Our second, third and all succeeding communions should have the same joy as our first.

This is such a great gift – the Real Presence of Jesus – given to each of us. Never let the joy wane. This is not something to be taken lightly.

Remember it was God who chose us, not us choosing God. God chose us for Himself if our hearts and minds are open

to it.

In giving ourselves fully to the Lord, receiving him with reverence and joy strengthens us each and every day.

With the onset of summer, I am happy to report that the plans for renovating the church restrooms and adding a family restroom are proceeding.

Final architectural work is being completed. Pending city/state approval we will proceed with bidding and hopefully have work begin later in the summer.

Once the plans are finalized I will have renderings available for you to see exactly what will be done.

Through the generosity of a donor, plus assistance from the Diocese of Madison Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities, the costs to the parish should be minimal. I think this will be a nice upgrade to our facilities.

The University Avenue/Parameter Street project is slated to begin in 2019. The city is finalizing land acquisition at this time.

Though not quite final both I and the diocese are pleased with what Middleton is offering for the small portion of our property needed for the intersection work. Once all is said and done, I will let you know what the final settlement is.

Again, enjoy this edition of "The Bee." Thanks to all of you for your continued support of St. Bernard's.

Have a great and faith-filled summer, Fr. Brian Wilk

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The Bee

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

St. Bernard feast day



St. Bernard's feast day is Aug. 20, which falls on a Monday this year. Fr. Brian will celebrate with a Mass at 8:15 a.m.

Gabor chosen to lead parish's pro-life activities

Mike Gabor, who has been a member of St. Bernard's parish for about 32 years, has been asked by Fr. Brian to lead the parish's involvement in pro-life activities held throughout the diocese.

"The whole pro-life issue, the protection of life from conception to natural death, is important to us as a Catholic Church," said Fr. Brian. "We have so many great activities in the Diocese of Madison, and it would be great if the parish had a bigger role in them."

For example, Fr. Brian participated in the March for Life in January, which started with a Rosary for Life and Mass at St. Patrick parish in Madison and con-

cluded with a march to the State Capitol where participants met with state legislators to discuss pro-life issues.

Gabor also participated in the March for Life.

"I asked Mike to be the point person, because of his involvement in the parish and because he is a great model for life for people to follow," Fr. Brian said.

Gabor is the past president of the parish council, a member of the Faith Formation Commission, a lector and Eucharistic minister

and the organizer of the Rosary Rally. Gabor said all lives are precious and sacred.

"The pro-life ministry celebrates the beauty and dignity of every living person," he said.

"Each is a gift of God."



Our Church

Wood, not marble used for St. Bernard's holy images

By Ellen G. Krenke

If you look closely at the statues and other holy images around the church, you will notice that they are made of wood, not marble.

Specifically, they are wood carvings from Oberammergau in the Bavarian region of Germany purchased during the building of the new St. Bernard church in the late 1950s.

During the planning phase, it was decided that no images would be used for the Stations of the Cross.

Instead, a roughly hewn cross would be placed at each of the 14 stations directing our meditation and prayer on the Passions of Christ.

However, on one of their trips to Cathedral Craftsman in Waukesha to check on the carving of the large sanctuary cross, Monsignor Ferdinand Mack, our first full-time pastor, and Thomas Flad, the church architect, noticed some wood carvings on the factory floor.

"As we stepped into the shop area on our way to the office of (Philip) Muehleck, we observed two or three partially completed wood carvings on the floor," wrote Mack.

"Just out of curiosity, (I) asked what they were and received the answer that they were unfinished carvings of the Way of the Cross – unfinished because they were without frame, without any embellishment whatsoever.

"Immediately we asked what possibly could be done to the carvings if we decided to use them for the church. Mr. Muehleck

assured us that they could be matched well to both design and placement.

"When the price was set, without hesitancy (it was ridiculously low), the 14 carvings were purchased."

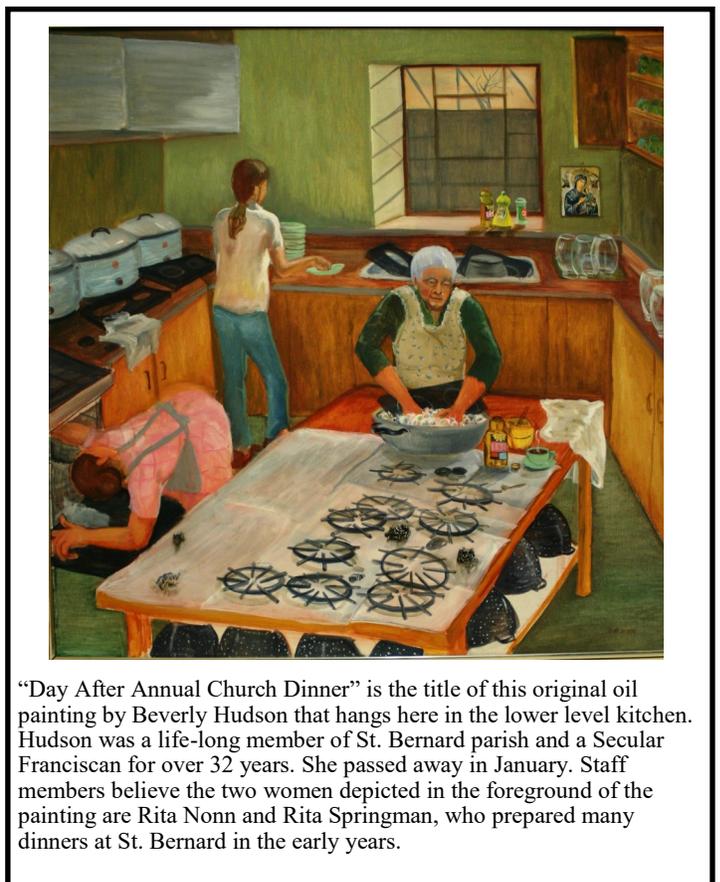
Muehleck, who was a co-owner of Cathedral Craftsman along with Henry Koehn, was the "artist," who directed the purchases from Oberammergau and the actual carving and framing of the 14 stations.



In April of 1959, the new Stations of the Cross were blessed by Bishop William P. O'Connor of the Diocese of Madison.



Lastly, the pews are also a product of Cathedral Craftsman. "Again worthy of note is that the pews conform with the design and appearance of the original sanctuary furniture," according to the church history.



"Day After Annual Church Dinner" is the title of this original oil painting by Beverly Hudson that hangs here in the lower level kitchen. Hudson was a life-long member of St. Bernard parish and a Secular Franciscan for over 32 years. She passed away in January. Staff members believe the two women depicted in the foreground of the painting are Rita Nonn and Rita Springman, who prepared many dinners at St. Bernard in the early years.

SIMON continued from page 1

Judy have taught religious education classes for 24 of the last 27 years.

"We did the best we could ... to pass on the basics of our religion to the kids," Simon said.

He has also been a lector, a member of the Knights of Columbus and president of the parish council.

Simon said he enjoys the camaraderie at St. Bernard parish.

"Throughout my life, my faith has helped me immensely," he said. "At each assignment, my wife and I joined the local parish whether it was on base or in the city or town close by. We were always active in those parishes."

Simon said he started teaching catechism classes when he was 22.

"I felt that was my purpose ... to pass on my faith to the next generation," he said. "I feel like each one of us has a duty to do that."

Our History

St. Bernard finds sister parish in Milwaukee through SVdP

By Ellen G. Krenke

Through a “twinning” program sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Bernard found St. Francis of Assisi, a Capuchin Ministry in downtown Milwaukee, in the early 1990s.

According to their website, “those who call St. Francis their home look upon themselves more as ‘family’ than ‘church.’”

St. Francis of Assisi parish is a multi-cultural community – predominantly Puerto Rican, African American and young adults – that offers “a warm welcome to all.”

The “warm welcome” is always offered at the St. Francis picnic held each year in July.

The outdoor Mass is a joyful celebration that includes a large gospel, Hispanic and folk music choir. It is music that makes you tap your foot, clap your hands and smile.

The menu includes three or four meats, fresh corn on the cob and potluck side dishes and desserts brought in by the hundreds by parishioners. It is a feast!

St. Francis also brings a bus-load of parishioners to our annual parish picnic in September.

Fr. Mike Bertram, the pastor at St. Francis, stressed the importance of cultural sharing between the two parishes.

“It’s nice to have that personal collaboration and association with each other,” he said. “We have so many different people, and when they mix with those in Middleton ... it is just a nice exchange.”

Through our “Giving Tree” and warm clothing programs at Christmas, we donate gifts for their young people and blankets and shawls for immigrant women who are new to the Milwaukee parish.

“The services that St. Bernard’s makes possible are so vital,” Fr. Mike said during one of our Giving Tree visits. “Without that support (the St. Francis Conference of St. Vincent de Paul) would be strapped.”

Before the new school year starts, St. Bernard parishioners also donate school supplies for the children of St. Francis.



St. Francis of Assisi choirs combine for the parish’s annual picnic in July. This year’s picnic will begin at 11 a.m., July 8 at Carver Park on 8th and Brown Streets in Milwaukee.

St. Francis parish has a rich history in Milwaukee. It was organized in 1871 (almost 20 years before St. Bernard), and the present stone buildings were designed by the famous New York architect William Schickel. They were dedicated in 1877.

The friars came to the United States from Switzerland in 1851. They were invited by the Milwaukee Bishop John Martin Henni, who was concerned about the spiritual welfare of his fellow Germans.

*“We have so many different people, and when they mix with those in Middleton ... it is just a nice exchange.”—
Fr. Mike Bertrand*

At the time, the Germans were considered “lower rung” immigrants in the area, which drove the Capuchins to establish their chapel on the north edge of Milwaukee.

But as their numbers grew and Germanic industries, such as farming, beer brewing and sausage making, flourished, Germans were mainstreamed into Milwaukee society.

From the start, the Capuchin Franciscans and St. Francis parish have devoted themselves to caring for the poor, the needy and the outcast.

In the 1950s, St. Francis developed a ministry for African Americans and Puerto Rican Catholics, who were set-

ting into the north side of Milwaukee.

In 1959, even with the Catholic Mass still celebrated in Latin, a Spanish homily was offered at St. Francis after the 11:30 a.m. Mass for the Spanish-speaking Puerto Rican people.

The Capuchins were also strong advocates of the rights of African Americans in the tumultuous days of the late 1960s and participated in civil demonstrations that promoted justice and equality for people of color.

Now St. Francis sees another minority

group emerging in the neighborhood: young adult Catholics who, though comprising the largest population block in the Catholic Church, receive the least service and pastoral care from many Catholic churches.

In addition to worship services, the parish offers opportunities for service and other activities including: prayer groups, choirs, parish council and other committees, youth groups, Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, a seniors group, a bereavement ministry, a free tax preparation program, pastoral care for the Plymouth Manor Nursing Home, religious education classes for children and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

The parish is also “blessed with abundant land which allows us to garden, whether it is for the tables of those parish members who tend to the garden or to assist area food pantries,” according to the website.

Finally, St. Francis sponsors a prison ministry program that is inspired by Matthew 25:31-46 seeing Jesus in the broken, sick and incarcerated.

The program provides group discussions and events that encourage responsibility, accountability and integrity for inmates re-entering the community and coping with the changes in society since their incarceration.

According to the website, “St. Francis of Assisi himself would be proud of the life and the history of the Milwaukee church that bears his name in the community’s determination to serve the poor in all its many forms and with its many faces.”

Our Community

St. Vinny's reaches those in need close to home, far away

By Barb Roberts

Many of you know of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) from its seven thrift stores in the area.



However, closer to home in our parish is an active, energized group of individuals who try to live the gospel message by reaching out to people in need and being the face of Christ to them.

We visit people in their homes and determine with them their most immediate needs. We give them a \$25 Walmart gift card as a welcome gift and then issue a voucher to be redeemed for furniture at any SVdP

thrift store.

We can refer them to the Middlecamp Service Center in Madison for use of the pantry and clothing needs as well.

The people we visit often do not earn enough to both pay rent and buy food so sometimes we help with emergency rental assistance or a car repair that can help them get to work.

We assisted a local woman out of an abusive living situation and gave her respite in a nearby hotel for a week until a new living situation could be found.

We also help to administer grant monies from a generous donor to pay Madison Gas and Electric utility bills.

Mothers and children often form the families who are struggling to pay bills and keep families together.

Two formerly homeless men have received monies for rent and security deposits to help get them settled in permanent housing under the watchful eye of their social workers.

We help at the local level by also sponsoring a monthly birthday party at Port St. Vincent, a transitional house for men.

Many men have no one in their family who would remember their birthdays so we help to create a fun atmosphere for them.

Over time, we get to know the men as individuals and look forward to spending time with them.

Through the generosity of Sam's Club in Madison, we were able to share the cost of a new large screen television for the residents to enjoy their sports viewing.

Some of our monies have gone further from home as we also assisted victims of tornadoes in Rice Lake, Wis., helped to open a new thrift store in Fargo, N.D., donated to national hurricane relief, funded a Catholic child's scholarship in Haiti and continue to help support the SVdP charitable pharmacy in Madison with quarterly donations.



"We must begin by establishing the Kingdom of God in ourselves." The St. Bernard Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul meets every first Thursday of the month. If you are interested in joining, please contact Connie or Neal Bickler at conniebickler@tds.net or 608-836-7922 for more information.

We raise our funds through our annual cookie sale and combine that with some funding from the parish.

SVdP was founded on a strong spiritual base that contributes to our growing spirituality and desire to serve through this ministry.

As St. Vincent de Paul said, "We must begin by establishing the Kingdom of God in ourselves."

We continue to strive to build up the kingdom through this important ministry.

Burrier: 'Appreciative that God has brought me to this task'

By Althea Burrier

Since I have been the point of contact person for Luke House over the last year, I have been so blessed.

We have a wonderful group of people who serve on the first Wednesday of the month.

Everyone is helpful, and they all pitch in where and when they are needed.

The food contributors have been reliable and ready to change donated items when the needs arises.

We have had some new contributors, which helps fill the void whenever we lose members.

I must also give the church staff a lot of thanks for their help and support.

It has been a great pleasure to serve the community in Madison who participate in the program. People come from many situations.

Last summer was our busiest time.

When school is out and families come for lunch, the dining room is always full.

During the winter months, the cold weather keeps people away, and the kids are in school.

During my time at Luke House, I have had a chance to eat with and speak to many of the people whom we serve.

They are so appreciative, and I am appreciative that God has brought me to this important task.

Our People

Sullivan: Working on an 'authentic connection' with our kids

By Ellen G. Krenke

Kevin Sullivan is a parent, but he is not your child's parent.

He is the director of religious education for St. Bernard, which means he can assist you in educating your children about the Catholic faith, but he can't do it for you.

"Parents often doubt themselves ... that they know the faith enough or they are equipped enough to teach and pass on the faith," he said. "I tell families that whatever you do while you are raising a kid is normal. If you eat fast food every night, that is normal. If you pray as a family or go to Mass as a family, that is normal for your family.

"It may seem awkward at first if you haven't prayed as a family ... but just try it ... and grow into it and you will become better at it over time."

When he was a child, "normal" for Sullivan was going to Mass

every Sunday.

"For me, family Mass attendance was never a question. We would go on vacation, and my mom would always make sure to search out the local Catholic parish. I eventually realized that not everyone had that as a priority."

Sullivan described his "growing in the faith" story as boring, "because I never really lapsed or left the church.

"When I was a senior in high school, I had a really good youth group experience that had a good impact on me too. Then I began to make my faith something that I was choosing rather than just going through the motions."

Sullivan was born on Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the church, to Michael and Rita Sullivan.

His father was the administrator of McDonell Area Catholic Schools in Chippewa Falls, and his mother was a middle school English teacher in the same consolidated school system.

"I don't recall being told much about working with teens from my parents, but they served as a good witness for me as I was growing up," Sullivan said.

After graduating from McDonell Central High School in 2004, Sullivan moved to Madison to attend Edgewood College, where he got a bachelor of arts degree in religious studies.

In 2009, started working as the high school coordinator for Sacred Heart parish in Reedsburg. He also started his master of arts degree in family ministry and faith development from Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., outside of Chicago.

Three years later, Sullivan started sending out resumes.

"At that point in my life, I wanted to work one job in a parish that I could work and worship in, and I found my way here."

A friend at Queen of Peace parish forwarded his resume to Monsignor Doug Dushack here at St. Bernard.

"By the end of the interview, I was upstairs and he was introducing me to people and showing me my office," Sullivan said.

When he returned for what he thought was a second interview, Dushack handed him a letter with a job offer, and "I have been here ever since," said Sullivan.

As the RE director, Sullivan is responsible for middle and high school religious education, Confirmation preparation, sacrament catch up for kids in that age range, the Young Adult group, adult education and other duties as assigned by the pastor.

Fr. Brian also refers to him as the "vicar of technology," because of his computer skills.



Kevin Sullivan said he would not be able to do his job without the support of his wife, Leslie, who he met at St. Bernard. They were married here, and their son was baptized here in January.

In his position, Sullivan said teaching facts about the faith and about Jesus are important, but "at the end of the day, it's meaningless if there is no relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. So that's my hope in the classes, and especially on retreats too, is that they have an encounter with the Risen Lord."

To get them to that point, Sullivan spends a lot of time fostering an ongoing relationship with his teens.

"Once a young person knows me and knows I am available to bounce things off of and to grow with, then the ball is in their court to ask me things. That is way more meaningful than me just saying, you have to do this."

Retreats, such as Frassati Fest, are a great time for connecting.

"They allow space for that to happen," Sullivan said. "There is down time ... because that is when conversations happen or questions come up that can really help kids

grow in their faith."

At the middle school level, Sullivan encourages students to participate in the fun nights, which include students from other parishes.

"The goal is to not even talk about faith," he said. "We pray before and after the event, but it is a space to get to know these young people.

"As they grow in our program, they feel more comfortable coming to me with their questions or concerns, because ... there are a lot of tough issues in the church and the world today that don't make sense without proper context.

"It's silly to think that we are just blindly supposed to believe what the church teaches. The church doesn't want that. That's why God gave us a brain and gave us reason -- to figure this stuff out for ourselves."

During his six years in this position, Sullivan has had to adjust how he communicates with students.

In 2012, most young people had a phone that could text. Now, almost everyone has a smart phone.

"At the risk of sounding cliché, that is changing everything," he said. "It gets in the way of authentic connection and real life."

Sullivan said most teens think they are really connected, but they are not. "It is a fake, superficial connection. If I have 100 likes on my Instagram post, I might feel good about myself. But how many of those people would I actually hang out with ... maybe five or six?"

"The real connections are your actual friendships, not just the people that you know by name and you pass by in the hall at school."

When they are on retreats, Sullivan said it is encouraging to see teens put their devices away for a while. "When they experience that or they find some silence ... they really hunger for more experiences like that. I get a lot of good feedback. They say, 'you were right Kevin. I didn't miss out, because I had my phone off for four hours.'"

Unfortunately, there is no pressure from their peers to put down the device. Ninety-nine percent of text messages are read within three minutes of being received.

"We can't even enjoy a cup of coffee with a friend without looking at our phones," Sullivan said. "We're missing out on the present moment. I think Jesus really likes the present moment."

In the future, Sullivan said he would like to improve his methods for teaching prayer. "That is hard to do. It is hard to model ... and teach them how, because there are 100 different ways to do it."

But for now, Sullivan enjoys his dream job: helping teenagers grow closer to the Lord.

"The desire to get to know and want what's best for young people is

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Small faith group connects between Sunday Mass, daily life for 30 years

By Ellen G. Krenke

The idea was a simple one: Small groups of parishioners would meet in their homes during the six weeks of Lent to share Catholic Christian values based on the Gospel.

“One is not Christian by oneself,” said then Pope John Paul II. “To be a Christian means to believe and to live one’s faith together with others, to be Church, to be community.”

So in 1987, the entire St. Bernard parish was grouped by neighborhood resulting in 18 “faith communities.”

Barb and Dick Roberts and Sharon Braem were in the same neighborhood, and they have nurtured their group with new members, returning members and visitors for the last 30 years.

“This is the group that brought us into the parish,” said Sharon. “Because you can go to church but if you don’t know anybody ... you are not part of the church.”

“That was always my feeling: Why would you want to go to a church where you don’t know anybody?” said Barb.

In a parish as large as St. Bernard, it is difficult to extend faith in a personal way to parishioners who don’t know each other.

“A parish should not be a group of strangers coming together once a week to worship God,” wrote Fr. Joseph P. Higgins, the pastor of St. Bernard in 1989. “It should be friends and neighbors living out their faith in mutual love and concern for each other.

“It should be a gathering of people who take the Sunday Gospel and Sacraments into their daily lives.”

So, the Roberts/Braem neighborhood meets to pray, help each other grow in their faith and to become better disciples of Jesus.

“It was a rousing discussion,” said Barb after a March meeting. “We don’t always stay on topic, but if the desire is there to bring out something we generally do so.”

They get together for Lent, Advent, an annual potluck and whenever they are needed by one of their fellow parishioners.

“I will never forget when Ron (Braem) and Sharon visited with me after my son passed away,” said Barb. “They were such a comfort when I really needed it.”

During their weekly meetings, they discuss the Gospel, but also build a relationship with each other.

“It is meaningful to us,” Barb said. “There is nowhere else where you can talk through your faith, question things and get some feedback from other people ... and expand your faith as well. It has been great growth for me in that way.”

Group members credit Barb with keeping the group together throughout the

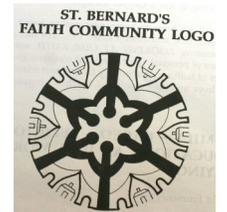
Summer 2018



Current members of the Sunday night Small Faith Group are front row from left to right, Connie Lone, Lois Riley, Barb Roberts, Sharon Braem, Jan Clauss, back row, Garry Lone, Dick Roberts, Ron Braem, Judy Simon, Tom Riley and Hank Simon.



Pictured left is the RENEW group or Faith Community in 1990, which includes Barb Roberts, left, Jan Clauss, center in striped shirt and Sharon Braem in pink.



years.

“This is a dynamic thing,” Hank Simon said about the group. “It never stays the same year after year.”

“And it shouldn’t,” Barb said.

Connie and Garry Lone moved to Verona and attended a Mass closer to their new home, but they came back to Middleton to go to Mass and to meet with their group.

“It was hard to leave St. Bernard,” Gary said. “We liked the priests and the Mass ... and the people.”

Only three Small Faith Groups currently hold meetings, two on Sunday night and one on Wednesday afternoon.

So, why do these group members keep coming back? “I think it’s the support, but I also want to give something to the group,” said Tom Riley.

“It is also rejuvenating and uplifting, because we have a common interest in

our faith,” said Judy Simon. “And it’s prayer. This is praying. This is part of it ... being together. So, I think it is just a very refreshing time to be with people who care and have like interests.”

Judy said she thinks that Small Faith Groups are important for young parishioners, because “they can make a connection with the community. Otherwise, they don’t stay. That is why I feel the Small Faith Communities should continue to grow.”

Hank said they have been in groups with younger and older members, but “it is hard to connect inter-generationally. They have to have like minds, so they grow together.”

“They were nice people but ... well, you’ve met Hank ... we were out of place,” said Judy with a smile.

No matter how long it takes you, find

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Majerus: 'The feet and hands of Christ' in El Salvador

By Ellen G. Krenke

Jillian Majerus recently joined other Catholic medical professionals from around the country to provide health care services to the poor in rural El Salvador.

It was her first trip with Helping Hands Medical Missions, whose motto is: "Delivering compassionate healthcare and the Gospel to the most needy in the developing world," and she was impressed with the organization.

"It is one thing to go and do medical work ... (but) to be with people of your faith ... it deepens the experience at a whole other level," said Majerus, who moved to Middleton in 2014 after graduating with a nursing degree from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire.

She now works for the university's Home Health department in Middleton visiting homebound patients or those who have been recently discharged from the hospital. She has also been a lector and catechist at St. Bernard for the last three years.

Majerus was one of about 40 doctors, nurses and volunteers, who served more than 1,500 patients in El Salvador in just five days!

"When you go, you don't have to be there preaching the gospel or to be a missionary," she said. "You are there to be with (the poor). And most of the time they teach you more than you ever expected to teach them. I'm not there to speak with my Bible. I'm just ... the feet and hands of Christ."

The group included four nurses, one occupational therapist, one laboratory technician, two pharmacists and six medical providers who were doctors, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

The remainder were volunteers who delivered water filters, transported patients between providers and assisted the doctors or in the pharmacy.

Each day, the group would get up at five, attend Mass, eat breakfast, travel to a clinic in the towns of Tacachico or Ateos and be ready to see patients between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"It was stressful, but when we got through the work day we were so happy and like 'Yes, we did it!'"



Jillian Majerus and one of her patients.

Majerus said it was hard to stop at five with long lines of people still waiting to see the doctors, but they had to be back at the retreat center before dark.

"There were two bus vans each with an armed guard," Majerus said. "They were not messing around. It was not safe, and with the local elections ... there were issues with rioting."

At night, they would eat dinner, prepare their bags for the next day, talk about the day's experiences during sharing time and end with a prayer before going to bed.

"We slept on cots. I took a lot of cold showers and ate a lot of plantains and beans," Majerus said. "It is definitely something everyone should experience."

Despite the accommodations, members of the group were treated like royalty by their patients.

"They thought we were all doctors," Majerus said. "They are not used to having a medical assistant and a nurse and a doctor. Everybody there just has doctors. They don't have the supportive teams that we have. So you would walk into a

clinic, and everyone just stood up and started clapping. They were just very appreciative of everything that we did."

Along with medical treatment, the volunteers distributed reading glasses and sunglasses, toothbrushes and toothpaste, multi-vitamins and water filters, because they have parasites in their drinking water.

One of their water filter customers appeared from the brush walking with the help of two sticks. During the interview, they found out he was 94 years old and had walked about three miles from his home to get a water filter.

Volunteers drove the man and his new water filter back to his house, which he shared with his two autistic sons.

During sharing time that night, Majerus said one of the volunteers said: "I have never been in a situation in which I was looking at someone, and they were looking at me like I was Christ to them. But I was looking at them like they were Christ to me."

"We were all crying," Majerus said. "It was very moving."

When she returned from the trip, Majerus said she had a new perspective on how we live. "We have no right to complain with how much we have been blessed and gifted with here back in the states," she said. "It is really hard sometimes to remember that ... until you are put in a situation where you see people who have nothing."

Majerus also described the trip as "re-centering" and "humbling."

"I think it is really easy to get caught up in our own day-to-day activities and not realize there is a broader picture out there of people who need help," she said. "You don't have to go to El Salvador to see poverty or people in need. Just helping people here in your community. There is still a great need, and you don't have to go far to find it."

Finally, Majerus said the trip was worthwhile. "You don't want to toot your own horn, but I feel like we definitely made a difference. And if I can encourage more people to do it ... that is the goal. I think we are all called to help people."

SULLIVAN continued from page 6 all that is necessary, because personality-wise there is no right or wrong way to connect with somebody," he said.

"We just have to be willing and open to share of ourselves and be interested in the well-being of each other."

Perhaps the bee is more honored
not because of what she does,
but because of what she does for others.

Healing the whole person by trusting in God's love

"Healing is an essential dimension of the apostolic mission and of Christianity. When understood at a sufficiently deep level, this expresses the entire content of redemption."

--Pope Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth

By Susan Swanke

I recently had an opportunity to attend the "Healing the Whole Person" retreat led by the staff from the John Paul II Healing Center in Tallahassee, Fla.

I knew I was in for a powerful experience, because I had read a book written by the founder of the Healing Center, Bob Schuchts, about five years ago while on a silent retreat.

Reading "Be Healed: A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus in Your Life" gave me insights into my life experiences and struggles as well as a deeper experience of God's personal love for me.

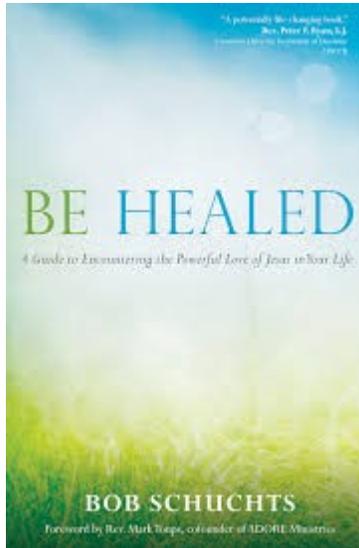
Being on the retreat last month renewed my desire for healing in my life and deepened my trust that God has very beautiful things in store for each person wherever they are on the journey.

There were many great insights that Bob and his team shared with us on the retreat.

One of them was what he calls, "the anatomy of a wound." He shared how we all have experiences in our lives that cause us pain, disappointment and the feeling of rejection.

Especially when these things happen to us in our youth, we begin to build a system of beliefs around this area of pain in an effort to understand why these difficult things have happened.

The problem is that these beliefs are made out of fear and



ungodly self-reliance. They often cause us to believe a lie about ourselves (i.e. I'm not as good as others, I'll never get what I desire, I'm not beautiful, etc.).

These lies cause us to make inner vows to protect us from being hurt in that place again.

Inner vows are not something we usually make in a conscious way, but they are subtle yet impact us tremendously (i.e. I have to get what I want, I can't rely on others, If I excel at this sport/career/relationship, I will be loveable, etc.).

I found the explanation of these layers of a wound very helpful.

Uncovering these layers of a wound is only part of the path to greater freedom and joy.

The other part is going to Jesus with a desire to let down the walls of protection and ask his healing presence.

At the retreat, there were ample opportunities to experience this healing prayer. We were led in meditations and given time to journal and reflect.

It was amazing how the Holy Spirit revealed things that I would never have thought of on my own.

This gave me a renewed joy that He wants us to be free even more than we do! What a good, good Father we have.

If you are interested in learning more about healing prayer, I would encourage you to check out the website for the John Paul II Healing Center at jpiihealingcenter.org.

There are audio talks, books and workbooks for purchase on their site along with a list of upcoming retreats.

Perhaps God may have a grace in store for you too!

SMALL continued from page 7

your group!

"It's really nice to get to know people, and until you are with them quite a bit you don't know them really," said Jan Clauss. "I feel like that everybody here I could ask anything of, and I appreciate that. Everybody is just so kind and nice."

"And we're growing old," said Hank.

"But we're growing old together," said Jan.

*"We find rest
in those we love,
and we provide
a resting place
in ourselves
for those who love us."*

-St. Bernard of Clairvaux

In the News



Jill and David Hilbert have been members of St. Bernard since 1983. Since that time, they have helped with several religious education program events, and Jill has used her upholstery skills for the kneelers, armrests and Fr. Brian's chair in the church. "Being members makes us have a feel of community, a place to go to worship and acceptance by all. Truly we have a beautiful church, a great church staff and a good neighbor feel."

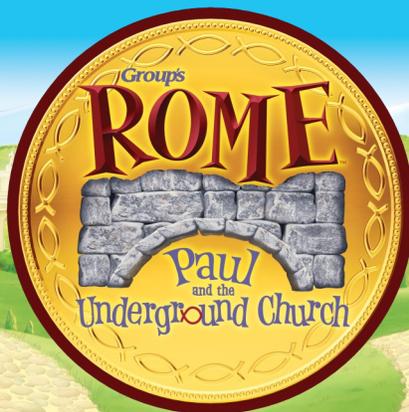
Our Children

Vacation Bible School to join Paul in Rome's underground church

Join us in Rome!

You'll explore the caves of the underground church, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool Bible-times projects, experience thrilling real-life dramas, play high-energy games, sample tasty Mediterranean snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

This four-day Vacation Bible School encounters Paul and the underground church where kids learn God's love is a gift, it changes us, is always with us, saves us and is worth sharing.



Vacation Bible School is for children entering grades pre-kindergarten through fifth and will be held from 9 a.m., to noon on July 30 through Aug. 2.

The cost is \$15 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child.

Registration forms, which are due by July 7, are available on our website at www.stbmidd.org.

Teens and adults are also needed to help make this week a success!

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jenna Ripp at 829-5878.

Wanted: Catechists with a desire to teach children to love God

To be a catechist in our religious education program, you only need one thing: desire.

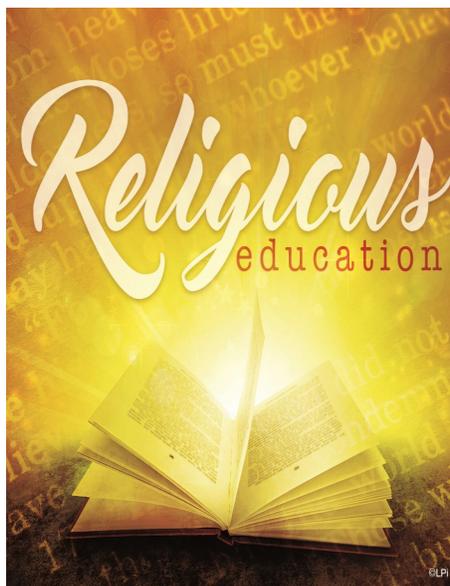
"All you need is the desire to guide children to love God as much as you do," said Carol Mottram, who has been a catechist here for almost 10 years. "We don't need to be experts in our faith to teach our children. Instead, we need the desire to help our children to open their hearts to an encounter with Christ."

Chantel Schmitz, who just finished her first year as a catechist, said teaching the seventh graders was "a very rewarding experience."

"I have gotten to know some of these kids and truly learned to appreciate this journey they are making in their faith," she said. "They have questions, and I like the questions because if I'm honest, I have them too. So I found it to be a sort of journeying together."

Mottram said she would especially encourage parents to become catechists,

because "by becoming catechists, we are a true example to our children to live a faith-filled life."



"I like knowing that I am helping to guide young children to know and love God," Mottram said. "Pope Francis asks us to open our hearts to a personal encounter with Christ. What better way to do this than to teach our children about God and to inspire them to live a Christian life?"

We're looking for teachers to share the love of Christ with all grade levels.

Elementary students meet Sunday mornings while middle and high school students meet Sunday evening in the Religious Education building.

All adults who volunteer with youth are required to pass a background check and complete the "Safe Environment" training through the Virtus program.

To volunteer for 2018-19, please contact Jenna Ripp about Virtus training or for elementary classes at 829-5878 or jenna@stbmidd.org or Kevin Sullivan for middle or high school classes at 829-5879 or kevins@stbmidd.org.

Registration for religious education classes begins in July

All students kindergarten through 12th grade should be enrolled in parish catechetical programs.

Most of our Religious Education (RE) classes meet in the RE building on Sundays during the traditional school year.

We ask that all students be signed up before attending a class.

Questions about registration or the religious education program can be directed to Susan Swanke, the RE administrative assistant, at 829-5877.

Elementary grades meet on Sunday

mornings. Pre-kindergarten classes meet during the 9 a.m., Mass, while second through fifth grade classes meet at 10 a.m.

Kindergarten and first grade parents have the option to choose either a 9 a.m., or 10 a.m., class.

Middle school grades 6-8 and all high school students will meet on Sunday evenings. Specific class times will be available at a later date.

Students eligible to begin Sacrament preparation will receive instructions and

specific meeting dates with their registration materials.

All Sacrament preparation will occur outside of traditional religious education.

Registration forms for 2018-2019 will be available in the parish office during normal business hours: 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1-4:30 p.m., and on our website at www.stbmidd.org/youth-education in late July. The fee is \$50 per child.

Your child's faith formation is important to us. We look forward to seeing them in class in September!

Camps, service projects to keep our teens busy this summer

By Ellen G. Krenke

Summer is a time for our teenagers to enjoy a different pace – preferably a slower pace that allows them to rest and relax their minds and bodies before the next school year.

But that doesn't mean they should sit idle.

The Diocese of Madison offers several summer camps and service activities for middle and high school students beginning in June and ending in August.

Love Begins Here provides middle and high school students with an opportunity to live in a community and perform mission work for local residents.

The program's goal is to take the advice of St. Teresa of Calcutta and do "small things with great love."

St. Bernard hosted a week-long session last summer, and the "missionaries" helped some of our older parishioners with yard work and small jobs around their homes. They also painted the woodwork surrounding the parish office windows and cleaned the outside of the church.

When the program began in 2009, a total of 56 missionaries served their neighbors in the Diocese of Madison.

"After seven years of growth and guidance from the Holy Spirit, over 750 missionaries served on LBH trips in 2017," writes Lindsay Finn, the mission director and a parishioner here at St. Bernard.

To date, Love Begins Here has given over 79,000 hours of service to those in need - materially and spiritually - in the Diocese of Madison.

Along with the mission work, students



Susannah Murdoch takes on manicurist duties during Love Begins Here 2017.

spend time talking about their faith with core team members and where they saw God during their day. The week ends with a meal hosted by a parish family and an outdoor activity.

Totus Tuus is a week-long youth program "dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship," according to the diocese website.

The Latin phrase means "totally yours" and was the motto of St. John Paul II.

Two teams of four young adult leaders travel to 12 different parishes during a six-week period to lead this program,

which includes daily Mass, prayer, Bible study and games. The week ends with a water balloon toss and shaving cream fight.

St. Francis Xavier in Cross Plains will host the final week for rising first through sixth grades from July 23-27 and for rising seventh through 12th graders from July 22-26.

Totus Tuus is concerned not only with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of the team members and young people," according to the diocese website.

Camp Gray in Reedsburg offers programs for campers in grades two through 12.

There are a wide variety of programs from the traditional camp program to wilderness trips outside of the camp, according to their website. Each program is designed to be developmentally appropriate for the age of the campers.

To find out what Settlers, Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Ranch, Explorers and Voyageurs are all about, go to their website at campgray.com.

Sessions are held in one-week (five days) increments, but there is also a short week on July 1-4 and a mini week on Aug. 5-7 for first-time campers and high school students.

Camp Gray also offers several specialty camps, including: a ranch camp for those who want to spend the entirety of each morning at the stables learning to care for and ride a horse; and a family camp held over Labor Day Weekend.

Essert receives Higgins Memorial scholarship

Holly Essert was recently named the recipient of the Fr. Joseph "Pat" Higgins Memorial Scholarship for 2018.

The award was presented at the end of the graduation liturgy on June 3.

Mary Peterson, who is the sister of Fr. Higgins, had the idea of offering a yearly scholarship to honor her late brother and the former pastor of St. Bernard parish.

Fr. Pat loved "The Servant Song," so scholarship applicants are asked to write an essay about the song and their involvement with our parish.

Essert was a catechist, involved in the



Relay for Life, the St. Bernard youth choir, the National Honor Society and the Middleton High School band.

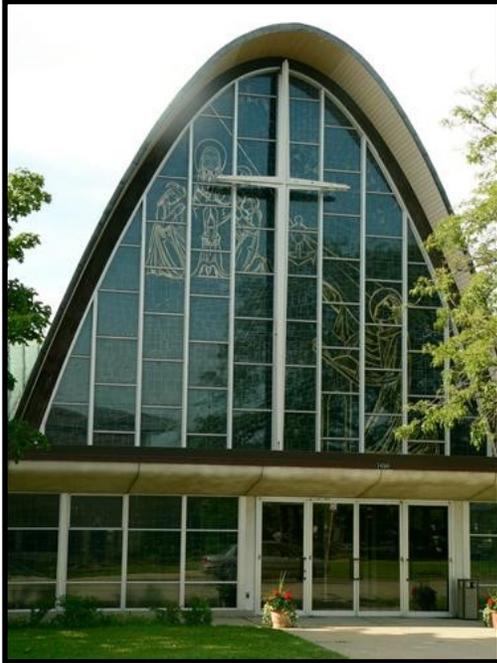
In her essay, Essert said she enjoys singing in the choir.

"Each time I sing, it feels like I'm singing a new song to God, like I'm sending Him a musical prayer. I feel more connected in praying to God when I sing, and I hope that by singing in Mass, I can help others feel this way too."

Essert, who is the daughter of Brian and Mary Lou Essert of Middleton, will attend UW-Eau Claire to study elementary education in the fall.

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“The Bee” is also posted on our 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

June

- 3 - Graduation Liturgy
- 6 - Luke House Meal
- 7 - St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
- 9 - Baptism Preparation
- 12 - KC Officer's Meeting
- 17 - Father's Day**
- 18 - Human Needs Meeting
- 18 - Catholic Multicultural Center Meal
- 26 - KC Rosary and Meeting

July

- 4 - Independence Day**
- 5 - SVdP Meeting
- 6 - Red Cross Blood Drive
- 8 - St. Francis of Assisi parish picnic
- 10 - KC Officer's Meeting
- 14 - Baptism Preparation
- 16 - Human Needs Meeting
- 16 - CMC Meal
- 21 - Mac and cheese/School supply drive
- 23 - Finance Meeting
- 24 - KC Rosary and Meeting
- 30-Aug. 2 - Vacation Bible School

August

- 1 - Luke House Meal
- 2 - SVdP Meeting
- 14 - KC Officer's Meeting
- 18 - Baptism Preparation
- 20 - Human Needs Meeting
- 20 - Feast of St. Bernard**
- 20 - CMC Meal
- 21 - Faith Formation Meeting
- 24-26 - Good Neighbor Festival**
- 28 - KC Rosary and Meeting