

A Pastor's Perspective

October 12, 2025 Bulletin

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Update – Community Garden (we are moving!): Do you know that we have a community garden? St. Mary's Community Garden was established in 2006 by two parishioners seeking to be a part of the solution to food insecurity in the greater Bangor area. The garden is discretely located on the south side of the St. Mary campus (at the edge of the parking lot). For nearly 20 years, in a spirit of faith, hope, and love, these parishioners have partnered with other volunteers from many area churches and not-for-profit organizations to plant and tend this garden. Their mission has been humble and wholesome: to grow and distribute organic whole foods to area food pantries and soup kitchens for those in most need. Monique Gautreau, coordinator of this impactful project, proudly notes that since its inception, the garden has been financially self-sustaining.

The mission of the community garden will continue (the need still exists); however, it will be moving to a new location! In anticipation of possibly developing some athletic fields on the south side of the property, the garden will be relocated to the parcel of land near the rectory. Not only will this move allow for the proposed fields, but our well-founded hope is that its new location will make the garden more visible, easier to tend (i.e., closer to a water supply), and serve as an invitation to welcome new volunteers to this worthy cause.

Update – My New Shoes (keeping our children moving!): To our entire parish community, The My New Shoes Committee says, "Thank you for your generous donations! This year, you donated 495 pairs of sneakers, 906 pairs of socks, and \$2,873 in monetary funds (to be used exclusively throughout the coming year to purchase additional socks and sneakers, as we receive additional requests). These items will help students at approximately 32 schools! Thank you also for the additional gifts of backpacks, books, and boots, which likewise will be distributed to area schools. And thank you to Patricia Roy who knitted warm winter hats for our children. Please know that every gift makes a difference in the lives of our children.

"And last but not least, thank you to all who volunteer to keep track of and distribute your donations; and thank you to the members of our parish staff who take care of many of the behind-the-scenes details. They make it all possible with their support. God bless you all."

And to Susan Shaw and Dave and Maureen Teixeira, coordinators of this inspiring and essential outreach effort, many thanks for your compassionate leadership!

Coming soon – K of C Spaghetti Supper: Proceeds to provide new boots and warm winter gear for children – see stpaulbangor.me/knights-of-columbus for details.

Peace and blessings / Msgr. Andrew Dubois