

The SAINT JOSEPH BUILDER

CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH • 12 WEST MINNESOTA STREET • ST. JOSEPH, MN 56374 • 320-363-7505



Mission Statement

We, the Church of Saint Joseph, are a Catholic, Benedictine faith community. Our liturgy invites and inspires active participation and faith-filled living. Through our ministry of formation in Christ, we continue to build a solid foundation as witnesses who eagerly respond to the needs of the parish and wider community.

Stewardship—Ministry

As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

During this month of February, we give attention to the third phase of our annual stewardship program—the Commitment to Ministry. We start by looking at our gifts and recognize that everything we are—our breath, our life, our time, our talents—comes from God.

Let each of you lead the life ... to which God called you. 1 Corinthians 7:17

Designed with loving care and intent by God, we have each been created to be a unique part of the whole, part of community. And as a parish community we have been gifted by God with everything we need to achieve our mission. We hear in 1 Peter that *Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gifts he/she has received from God.*

There are many opportunities to use your gifts through the ministries of the Church of Saint Joseph. These ministry opportunities are listed in the *Sharing the Ministry 2011* booklet which can be found in the back of church, in the parish office and on the parish website www.churchstjoseph.org by selecting Ministry Commitment under the Stewardship menu. Please check it out and if you would like to join in an area of ministry you are currently not involved in, please fill out and return to the parish office the form included with this newsletter.

Ministries are ongoing and many have no official start or end times. Opportunities to become involved and training for new members happens at various times throughout the year. Notices will be in the bulletin, and when you return the *Sharing the Ministry 2011* form, you will be contacted by a parish staff member as opportunities arise. Parish leadership and committee memberships are typically three-year terms beginning in July and ending in June; the parish fiscal year.

One way to express our gratitude for being created a unique and gifted person is by using our gifts. And sharing our gifts for the common good is our thank you to God.

*O Lord, you have searched me
and known me.*

*You know when I sit down and
when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from
far away.*

*You search out my path and my
lying down,
and are acquainted with all my
ways...*

*For it was you who formed my
inward parts;
you knit me together in my
mother's womb.*

*I praise you, for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made.*

Wonderful are your works.

Psalm 139 1-3,13-14

It is extraordinary how extraordinary the ordinary person is.
—Julia Cameron

Becoming What We Claim to Be

“The Excellent Parish: Becoming What We Claim to Be” was the theme of our parish’s recently held leadership retreat at the College of Saint Benedict. On Saturday, January 8, many of our parish leaders gained valuable insight and knowledge from the academic minds of Barbara Sutton and Victor Klimoski from Saint John’s School of Theology•Seminary. It was through lecture, group discussion, and individual reflection that we were able to bring into the New Year a better awareness of how to make our parish as excellent as we claim it to be.

To deliberately motivate our thinking, Barbara started the retreat with *Visio Divina*—translated “see with the eyes of faith” or “see the holy”—from *The Saint John’s Bible* illumination titled *Sower and the Seed* (Matthew 13:1-23). When prompted to share what we noticed within the illumination, some interesting and thoughtful comments were presented. Several participants mentioned that Jesus is the

Sower, and pointed out that he is depicted in blue jeans. You might be thinking, as many of us did, “Jesus is not supposed to be in blue jeans!” What it may imply is that *WE* are the sowers of the seed as well ...the seed being the Word of God ...as God works through us. Occasionally we all get stuck on the details. Each detail holds its significance as it is a piece of a greater picture. Sometimes we need to let go and just let God. Keep the faith and try not to let *pieces* of the puzzle prevent us from seeing the whole picture. After more mindful contemplation, the group discovered that for every seed that is sown only but a few may take root and achieve the intended goal. However, even when we fail to achieve our purpose, we are not failing since

something good results in everything. The importance is progress, not perfection. It is staying faithful to the task, and a conversion of hearts.

Having centered our mind, body and spirit using *Visio Divina*, Victor continued to guide us through our journey of finding out what it means to be an excellent parish. We proceeded with our reflection by using the five commitments of the excellent parish as our guide: 1) discerns implication of justice 2) is grounded in prayer and study 3) practices radical hospitality 4) models stewardship as a way of life and 5) nurtures a culture of mutual accountability. Within each commitment we individually listed our parish’s

strengths and challenges. Of course there is room for growth in everything we do, but overall we found our parish to have an abundance of strengths.

The Church of Saint Joseph is thriving and has a mint of programs/activities to offer its parishioners. We have a social ministries commission, a Prayer Corner, a *Why Catholic?* program, faith formation for all ages, greeters at all

liturgies, a 4th of July

celebration like no other small or big town around, weekly all-school Masses, Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound ...trust me the list is lengthy. Collectively new and old families account for an impressive amount of untapped talent. Now is as good a time as any to take action ...to take an active part in our parish community.

We can have all the programs and services anyone could want, but what really matters is the quality of our relationships with one another. In everything we do, inside our parish or otherwise, let it be directed by *LOVE*.

Laura Kutzer
Pastoral Council



Vic Klimoski and Barbara Sutton keep participants engaged

Ministry in Action

Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.

—Matthew 25:40

In addition to using our gifts in parish ministry, we can also use them in service to people in our wider community. We could consider delivering meals for the Meals on Wheels program, sponsored by Catholic Charities Senior Dining Services, or even coordinating the meal deliveries. We could consider becoming involved in Rural Stearns Faith in Action, which is a non-profit organization that provides free transportation, light housekeeping, respite for caregivers, and fulfills other needs of elderly citizens. We could assist with preparing and serving a meal at the Place of Hope. We could stock shelves and assist clients at the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf. On a global scale, we could join the Partnership with the Diocese of Vijayapuram Committee to explore ways to reach out to a parish in India. Who are our brothers and sisters? Everyone! If you would like to participate in these community-wide activities, you may indicate your interest on the enclosed *Sharing the Ministry 2011* form, and we will pass the information along to the appropriate person. Thank you for recognizing that we are all brothers and sisters on this planet—serving one another with our God-given talents.



Sealing meal packages



Thanks to everyone who participated in any way for the Kids Against Hunger Event on Saturday, January 22 at Salem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. This was truly a community wide effort involving many churches. Our own parishioners donated over \$1,000 and at least two dozen of us showed up to help pack meals during the course of the day. There were over 150 volunteers from different churches working in two-hour shifts, from 9:00 am-5:00 pm, and the happy spirit was very contagious. In the end we packed over 148,000 meals and raised \$20,000 to help pay for the food packed and for supplies. The boxes of packed meals have been shipped to Jamaica and plans are now underway to prepare for next year's event. More information will be coming as plans unfold. This is a great way for churches to reach out and feed the hungry. Thanks for your generous spirit.

S. Joyce Iten, OSB



Packing meals for shipment

Please note: The enclosed ministry sign-up form only needs to be returned if you are interested in exploring a ministry that you aren't currently involved in. Please give some thought to matching up your skills and talents with the ministries of our parish. How can you best use the gifts that God has blessed you with to serve our parish and wider community?