

# St. Bernadette Parish Survey

## TODAY'S FOCUS: PARISH BUDGET AND FINANCE

### THE APPROACH

The Parish Council believed it was essential to take a “big picture” view of our community. To accomplish this, parishioners were asked to identify activities and practices that should be continued, started, and/or stopped. Now that the results are in, the goal is to engage people whose skills and talents will make this a positive process that leads to meaningful long-term success.

### AN OVERVIEW

150 respondents (about 5% of parishioners)

The data collected fit generally into four broad categories (in descending order):

1. Music and Liturgy
2. Religious Education
3. Ministries and Outreach
4. Parish Budget and Finances

Many responses were passionate and expressed heartfelt opinions. Parish Council is, and has been, working to address them.

### A SAMPLING OF COMMENTS

- Continue publishing the Finance and Budget information weekly in the bulletin
- “Stay Debt Free!”
- Continue the Finance Reports
- Continue the Children’s Collection
- Continue Fundraisers targeted to specific needs
- Stop second collections and continual financial appeals
- Look into an energy audit
- Install separate utility meters for school and church to obtain accurate costs
- Continue selling “Scrip” after all the weekend masses
- Create and publish a “Wish List”
- Stop financing St. Francis Xavier School System (See below)

### SUGGESTIONS

- Think of ways to gain income from the use of the school.
- Begin distributing church envelopes in the narthex instead of mailing them.
- Encourage support from members not currently contributing.

### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOLS

Started over 20 years ago, the St. Francis Xavier School System’s mission is to provide the highest quality faith-based education possible. This charge could not be met without the united effort of all eight Appleton parishes. St. Bernadette is 1/8<sup>th</sup> owner of this school system, and our continued support is vital to the fulfillment of its mission.



## **ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR**

Since the Pulse of the Parish survey, parishioners and staff have initiated a number of programs and actions, including:

- Faith Direct – an online contributions program that enables parishioners to eliminate the mailing of weekly envelopes and make contributions online.
- A monthly newsletter from St. Bernadette. This online newsletter will keep parishioners up-to-date with the happenings in the parish. Also volunteer opportunities will be made available through this newsletter.

## **IDEAS THAT REMAIN UNDER DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION**

- Installing a new Parking Lot. Once local, county, and state requirements are accounted for; the estimated cost for this project exceeds \$400,000.
- The separation of electric and gas meters has been explored. The estimated costs to St. Bernadette are determined to be \$24,000.00. These costs include replacing the obsolete main electrical distribution panel for the school that is not compatible with current meter technology. This project will remain on hold until absolutely necessary.
- Attempts will be made to consolidate and streamline the second collection process.

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- If you have a suggestion for the Finance Council you are more than welcomed to attend the monthly Finance Council meeting. Meetings are scheduled every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Resource Room.
- The Finance Council is always looking for additional members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact either Fr. Don or a member of the council.
- If you have a fundraising idea please contact a member of the Finance Council. We welcome all ideas.
- If you want to volunteer for the projects that are under consideration, please contact Fr. Don or a member of the Finance Council.



**Many thanks to those of you who responded to the Parish Survey. If you didn't get the opportunity to do so, or would like to share additional thoughts, we encourage you to speak with any of your Finance Council Members.**

### **FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Lydia Jansen (Chair), Julie Lopas, Fritz Corsmeier, Tim Bleck, Jerry Geiger,  
Vicki Hoffman, Chuck Schreiter