



Annual Report

A Letter From Our Pastor

My dear people of Sacred Heart Parish:

One of the many end of year activities is to review the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement.

I use these as the theme for this year's annual report, and begin with the losses.

One thing that really concerns and disappoints me is the many families we have lost in the past year due to a change of jobs. The church has a lovely blessing for a departing parishioner, and I have offered this blessing far too many times in the last year. We offer best wishes for those who have gone to new places, and we hope that not many will follow in leaving the Newton area.

Another significant loss this year was the death of the Rev. Ernest Braida, former pastor of Sacred Heart Church. Father Ernie

lived just three and a half years after his retirement in June of 2008. He knew you and cared for you. Please offer an occasional prayer for his happy repose.

Thankfully, our profits exceed our losses in the parish. Now a few words about our profits, the good things that have happened in the parish.

We have been very pleased this year to finish the upgrade in the adult room with the recent installation of a large flat-screen television and a new DVD player. New window treatments were installed in the window of the adult rooms several months ago.

The inauguration of the new Roman Missal occupied us for much of 2011, but especially so

in the months just before the First Sunday of Advent in 2011. How memorable that date will be! Neither the world nor the church collapsed, we are just still learning some new worship vocabulary.



Stained Glass Windows Dedication

Kudos to the staff, the liturgy commission, all our musicians, and other ministers for their efforts to make this transition as easy as possible.

One of the great events of 2011-2012 was the installation and dedication of our new stained glass windows in the

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Letter from Our Pastor, cont'd. . .

gathering space. How lovely it is to see that new glass giving such new color and light to the gathering space. That project was announced just last summer in the annual report for 2010-2011, and you so wonderfully rose to the occasion to provide the needed funds to complete it. The dedication evening was absolutely splendid, with special music and musicians, and a wonderful reception, clearly above and beyond our normal receptions. Thanks to everyone who made the new windows and their dedication day so memorable.



Stained Glass Windows Dedication

Having attended to our profits, now I wish to employ a homonym and speak of “prophets.” I want to ask each of you to be a prophet for our Lord and his Church. Be that instrument of grace, that beacon of hope,

that light in darkness—be Christ in the world in what you say and do, and how you willingly conform yourself to the person of Jesus Christ.

May your own losses be few, your profits many, and your prophetic witness to Jesus Christ and his holy Catholic Church be unending.

Sincerely,

In Christ Jesus
our Risen Savior,

Rev. William E. Reynolds, pastor

A Note From Our Deacon

Dear Friends:

Thanks for another great year. We have a wonderful faith community here at Sacred Heart and it is a blessing to be a part of it.

This past year I continued to spend some time with the Catholics Returning Home and Seasons of Hope programs in addition to the weekend liturgies and other pastoral responsibilities. You will find more about Catholics Returning Home and Seasons of Hope in the Faith Formation section of this Annual Report.

In August of 2011, a Vocations Committee was formed to lead the parish in creating a culture that nurtures and promotes vocations. As one of several members of the committee, I would like to share with you a few of the things the committee has accomplished.

“... to lead the parish in creating a culture that nurtures and promotes vocations.”

In October, Father Thom Hennen, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Davenport, spent some time here at Sacred Heart. Father Thom enjoyed having dinner with our parish leadership and discussed some best practices for creating a culture of vocations.

He also celebrated a Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations.

The first Saturday evening and Sunday of each month was designated as a time to pray the Prayer for Vocations after the Masses as a community.

A prayer box was designed for families to take home and be used to help create a focal to aid in praying for vocations. Students preparing for Confir-



Blessing of Throats

mation and their families participated throughout their formation.

On April 29th to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, each parishioner was given a vocations prayer card. A Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations was celebrated.

The prayer for vocations is included in the bulletin monthly. Please consider including vocations in your daily prayer.

I enjoy being part of this vibrant parish. I appreciate the support of our great parish staff, Father Reynolds, and all of you. I look forward to another faith filled year at Sacred Heart.

May God continue to bless you,

Deacon Dan

Faith Formation Commission

The Faith Formation Commission has the ambitious goal of providing opportunities for parishioners of all ages to grow in their knowledge of our Catholic faith, to deepen their relationships with Jesus Christ and to live as his disciples in their everyday lives. Commission members supported and advised the faith formation staff in a variety of ways. Highlights this year included selecting materials for each age group to use in studying the New Roman Missal and personally inviting families who had not registered for Faith

Formation to participate in our programs. The commission also helped develop the faith formation budget and calendar.

The faith formation staff includes, Mary Beth Lawson, K-6 coordinator; Clarissa Bloom, coordinator of youth ministry; and Tammy Norcross, director of lifelong faith formation.

The curriculum for this past year focused on the New Roman Missal. Parishioners were invited to participate in intergenerational faith festivals and in small group sessions.



Faith Festival

Intergenerational Learning

Three Intergenerational Faith Festivals were held to help parishioners of all ages prepare for and learn about the changes in the prayers for the New Roman Missal. The Faith Festivals included a short prayer ser-

“... activities to deepen the understanding of the liturgy and love for the Eucharist.”

vice, a teaching component on a particular part of the Mass, and discussion and activities to deepen the understanding of the liturgy and love for the Eucharist. The Faith Festivals were after Mass on Sundays and repeated on Wednesday evenings.

The Sunday festivals began at 10:30 a.m. and concluded with a meal at 12:30 p.m. The Wednesday festivals began with a meal at 6 p.m. and concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Individualized Learning

The parish library is open after Mass during the week and on the weekends. The library has 269 patrons, an increase of 34. As a tool for evangelization, the library has welcomed persons of other denominations to use its resources.

Our volunteer parish librarian, Kay Fisher, reports that from July 2011 to July 2012, the library staff purchased or received as donations 279

new and used books, CDs, DVDs and periodicals. During this time the staff circulated over 2200 items. Of the 60 standard library topics, the most popular with patrons were: in the areas of Christian experience, life and practice;



Sacred Heart Library

Roman Catholic Church History; Biography; Public worship-liturgy.

She and her team of volunteers come in nearly everyday to catalog and shelve books, CDs, and DVDs. A weekly column is printed in the parish bulletin and website.

Small Group Learning

Our parish continued to offer small group sessions for children, youth and adults.

K-6, kindergarten through sixth grade met for 17 small group sessions either on Wednesday afternoons or Sunday mornings after Mass. Nine catechists led the weekly sessions which included study of the Sunday Scripture readings, Catholic Doctrine, and a Saint of the Week. Learning takes place using instruction that reaches multiple learning styles with a variety of activities including prayer, skits, crafts, games, and activity pages. A prayer service was held at the beginning of each session to teach the children about the changes in the Mass. During the prayer services children also learned about appropriate Mass behavior, the parts of the Mass, holy items used in Mass, Catholic vocabulary, the liturgical seasons and saints. In addition to their weekly sessions, the 6th graders participated in a stewardship activity outside of class when they made Valentines and delivered them to a Newton Nursing Home. All of the classes participated in the stewardship project 'Caring for Carlos' by donating items for themed baskets for Carlos, an 11 year old parishioner who has Leukemia. Throughout the year, the children prayed for Carlos and his family and made him cards to convey their continued support.

"...to discuss the topics of respect, the gift of life, chastity, modesty, self-image, and communication."



K-6 Summer Faith Trip to Maytag park

Summer Faith Trip

In August 2011, ten PreK-1st Grade children had a Summer Faith trip to Maytag Park from 10am until noon. The children learned about God's creation. They participated in crafts and songs to reinforce the idea that God created everything! The children also enjoyed a snack and time to enjoy God's creation while playing at the park!

Human Growth and Development

A workshop on Human Growth and Development was held for parents and children in grades K-6 in January. The children and parents used a study guide to discuss the topics of respect, the gift of life, chastity, modesty, self-image, and communication.

Middle School Youth

The 7th and 8th grade youth of

the parish spent the year getting to know Jesus Christ and learning how to follow Him. Weekly session topics included: The Gospels, True God and True Man, Jesus Teaches, Jesus Heals, The Death of Jesus, and The Resurrection of Jesus. The group of 35 youth also explored other topics of interest including: the new Roman Missal, Hunger & Poverty, Immaculate Conception, Morality and Lent.

Once again, parents and youth went on a scavenger hunt to collect food for the parish Thanksgiving baskets. They also served at the parish Mardi Gras Dinner and Dance to earn money to participate in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl-a-thon.

Another highlight of the year, was the opportunity to meet youth from surrounding parishes at the annual Grinnell Deanery bowling party in Pella and skiing/snowboarding at Sleepy Hollow. On March 25^h a carload of youth attended the Jr Hi Youth Rally in Iowa City featuring comedian and musician, Vince Nims, who inspired everyone with his stories and songs on the theme "Heaven Planted in Our Hearts".

The day included opportunities to attend two workshops, eat, dance, attend Mass with Bishop Amos and make new friends.



Middle School Youth attend Youth Rally

Small Group Learning, cont'd . . .

Senior High Youth

The High School weekly youth group focuses primarily on the six components of Youth Ministry; advocacy, prayer and worship, justice and service, evangelization, catechesis, and community life. An important part of being in a group is getting to know one another. One way we get to know one another is to create opportunities for the youth to build community and to have fun outside of learning in the classroom. In addition to the weekly gatherings, here are some highlights of the community building experiences we had:

We spent an evening discussing various apologetics using the popular books, "Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?" and "Did Jesus Have a Last Name?" by Matthew Pinto and Jason Evert.

The youth traveled to Coralville for the annual Diocesan Youth Rally featuring Mike Patin. They participated in singing, breakout sessions, Mass with the Bishop and meals together as a Diocese.

They enjoyed a fall gathering at Dan-D-Farms in Knoxville going through the corn maze, and roasting hotdogs and marshmallows.

A favorite activity is the annual scavenger hunt around Newton collecting food for the Thanksgiving baskets.

15 youth and 8 adults traveled to Indianapolis for NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) where

participants experienced the bigger church with over 20,000 other Catholic youth from all over the country.



Sr. High Youth attend NCYC

In January, the youth in the Deanery went to Sleepy Hollow for an afternoon of skiing, tubing and snowboarding.

The youth planned an overnight lock-in in January. They played games, watched movies, went on a photo scavenger hunt around Newton, and shared meals together.

Some of the sophomores, juniors and seniors chose to study and learn about the Theology of the Body for Teens which focuses on John Paul II's teachings. The program is made up of 12 sessions that focus on chastity and vocation. In each session, the youth learn more about how to live a free life and what the church teaches.

"... focuses primarily on the six components of Youth Ministry; . . ."

Adults

The parish once again offered many small group opportunities for adults.

In the fall 7 groups of adults met to learn about the revised Roman Missal text and to understand the reasons for the changes to some of the prayers and responses. Learners used the booklet Understanding the Revised Mass Texts by Father Paul Turner to explore the Mass together and grow in appreciation of the Church's rich sacramental heritage.

During Lent 7 groups of adults participated in Bible Studies.

One group reflected on the Sunday Scripture readings, a group also read and discussed Jesus of Nazareth Book II, and the other groups used study guides and DVDS from the Little Rock Scripture Study series on Psalms, The Passion & Resurrection Narratives, and the Gospel of Mark.

Adults Exploring the Catechism met on Saturday afternoons before Mass to study the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph by paragraph.

After Christmas and again after Easter, we invited adults who have been away from the church to consider joining us again. **The Catholics Returning Home** program is a series of six sessions that are approximately 90 minutes in length. Topics



Adult Small Groups

Small Group Learning, cont'd. . .

covered in the sessions include, stories of faith from Catholics who have returned to the Church, changes in the Church since Vatican II, explanation of the Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and an explanation of the Nicene Creed. Sessions include ample time for questions and answers



Christmas Pageant

Two **Catholic Book Clubs** continue to meet monthly. One group meets during the day and one in the evening.

Special Events

2011 Christmas Pageant

On December 17, 2011, seventeen children and two youth participated in the 'Operation Baby King' pageant. The retelling of the Christmas Story through the eyes of the

'undercover angels' was a unique and fun way to revisit the birth of Jesus. In addition to the children, five adults

helped at practices and during the pageant. The Christmas Pageant is always a wonderful way for the children of the parish to share the story of Christ's birth with the our faith community.

"... through the eyes of the 'undercover angels' was a unique and fun way to revisit the birth of Jesus"

An Epiphany Morning of Reflection

On January 7th the parish hosted a special morning of reflection for catechists and all interested adults in the Grinnell Deanery. Msgr. Drake Shafer, former faculty member and officer of St. Ambrose University in Davenport, was the guest speaker. Almost 40 people attended they event. Many were from our parish.

Vacation Bible School

In July 2011 our Vacation Bible School theme was "Assorted Saints and Virtues". Throughout the week 51 children learned about Faith,

Hope and Love through the lives of St. Nicholas, St. Juan Diego, St. Brigid, St. Martin De Porres, and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. Six adults and fourteen youth helped with the

VBS Centers for crafts, music, snack, Bible Story time, and games.

In June 2012 the Vacation Bible School theme was "Son Games:

Joining God's Team". With its Olympic theme, 47 children learned to 'Join In, Team Up, Get Strong,

Keep On, and Celebrate' being on God's team. The children learned about St. Paul, his conversion and the many trials and tribulations he endured as a missionary for God. Six adults and 13 youth helped with the VBS Centers for crafts, music, snack, Bible Story time, and games.



Vacation Bible School

Sacramental Preparation

Infant Baptism preparation sessions were offered on four Sunday evenings during the year for parents wishing to have a child baptized. During the session, parents explore the meaning of the symbols of Baptism and discuss their responsibility to raise their children in practices of the Catholic faith.

First Sacraments candidates participated in monthly family sessions, Intergenerational Faith Festivals, and small group sessions. Nine children celebrated First Communion on April 28th. One of the children also made a profession of faith and was received into the Catholic Church that day.

Confirmation candidates prepared for the sacrament by participating fully in the regular faith formation program including Intergenerational Faith Festivals and small group sessions. In addition they attended monthly family sessions beginning in January.

Throughout the year candidates and sponsors worked together to complete the exercises in the book Have Faith: Sustaining the Spirit for Confirmation and Beyond. The book invited the candidates and sponsors to examine their spiritual lives, their Catholic identity and the expectations of discipleship. Candidates also kept a weekly Mass journal and participated in a minimum of three service projects that challenged them to live as disciples. On Palm Sunday weekend, the can-

didates enjoyed an overnight retreat at the State 4-H Camp in Madrid, Iowa, where they participated in the



First Communion

High Ropes Team Challenge Course, celebrated Mass, and reflected on the significance of Confirmation in their own lives.

Members of the pastoral council conducted interviews of the candidates. Bishop Martin Amos came to Newton to

confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on 14 candidates from Sacred Heart on Saturday, June 9, 2012.

Rite of Christian Initiation of

Adults is the process used for adults who wish to become Catholic. Sessions are held continuously throughout the year.

According to the church, adults are those who have reached the age of reason (7 years old). This past year 8 year old, Dominic Vasquez, participated in the RCIA process. We joyfully welcomed him as a new member of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil when he celebrated all three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion.

In September, Roxann Garrett, became Catholic after attending weekly Mass, studying the US Adult Catholic Catechism and becoming acquainted with the Catholic Way of Life. She was already a baptized Christian and so she made a profession of faith and was confirmed by Fr. Reynolds.

Periodically throughout the year Inquiry Sessions were held to invite others to begin the process of becoming Catholic. People may begin the process at any time of year by contacting the parish office.



Confirmation

Social Action Commission

In response to the hardships society faces, the Social Action Commission works to meet individuals' basic needs and strives to remove the root causes of social problems. The outline of two shoes, referred to by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as "The Two Feet of Social Action," serves as a metaphor for charitable works and social justice. It is a model for balancing the care we give to others and the improvement of social structures. This year's commission activities are listed below.



Packaging Food for Kids Against Hunger

Works of Charity

School Supplies Collection • Right-to-Life Baby Shower • CROP Walk (proceeds to Catholic Relief Services) • Thanksgiving Baskets • Kids Against Hunger • Angel

Tree • Advent Caring Tree • Operation Rice Bowl • Care Packages for Troops • El Salvador Medical Mission Trip • Haven of Hope Hosts • Food Pantry • Community Meals • Rosary Making for El Salvador • Meals on Wheels Delivery

Works of Social Justice

Right-to-Life Book Sale • Dream Act Postcard-Writing Campaign • Attendance at Iowa Institute for Social Action • Respect-Life Prayer Service • Iowa Marriage Amendment Petition • Walk for Life (proceeds to Right to Life) • Mother's Day Plant Sale (proceeds to Right to Life)

Liturgy Commission

The primary focus of the liturgy commission this year was the implementation of the Revised Roman Missal that began the first Sunday of Advent

"... the implementation of the Revised Roman Missal that began the first Sunday of Advent 2011."

2011. The parish staff and commission members spent many hours planning for the implementation and selecting support materials/aids for parishioners. We introduced and practiced the new prayer responses during three intergenerational faith festivals, adult small groups, commission meetings, and at pastoral council meetings. Weekly bulletin inserts also explained the changes along with the new wording. The choir members learned four new Mass settings of the sung prayers, and led the assem-

bly in learning and singing them as well. To emphasize the start date for the Revised Roman Missal, the Commission teamed up with the Knights of Columbus to get colorful new covers

for our missalettes. The Liturgy Commission extends its appreciation to the parishioners for their support and positive response to this important update.

Throughout the year the liturgy commission welcomed and trained people

to serve as altar servers, hospitality ministers, lectors, song leaders, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Of special note is the number of teen ministers introduced as lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Another year-around task of the commission was providing the seasonal decorations in the church and gathering space. This past year, the liturgy

commission collaborated to create prayerful, spiritual, meaningful liturgies for our parish family.



Altar Servers before Vespers

Family Life Commission

The Family Life Commission has the task of supporting the heart of the Christian Community- the family. By strengthening the relationships of individuals within a family, it should enrich the growth of holy families and assist those families encountering difficulties.

This year, the Family Life Commission supported and encouraged engaged couples, marriage, and families. Prayer partners were assigned to every engaged couple in the parish as they prepare for the sacrament of marriage. Father Reynolds recognized anniversary milestones by offering a blessing for couples during mass. A representative from the team of Baptism Home Visitors welcomed new babies by meeting with expecting parents and presenting gift bags to the families, and inviting them to the next Baptism preparation gathering. Hosting a Tailgate prior to a home football game and Lenten Soup Supper encouraged interaction between families. Mothers engaged in fellowship as the MOMs program is being renewed in our parish.

The Family Life Commission maintained the Nursery and provided two childcare providers during the Sunday morning mass. Children celebrated Easter with an Easter Egg Hunt, showed their dedication to Mother Mary with the May Crowning, and parishioners enhanced their skills in the kitchen by participating in a cooking class.

Our outreach to the parish commu-

nity included: meals for families of newborns and families experiencing hardship, those who visit the homebound, and our greeting card minis-



May Crowning

"...enrich the growth of holy families and assist those families encountering difficulties.

try. The Prayer Shawl Ministry was busy providing many beautiful items for those needing extra support and to celebrate special occasions including Baptism prayer cross, prayer mats for First Communion candidates, prayer boxes for Confirmation candidates, Sacred Heart High School Graduates, teddy bears for newborns, marriage prayer shawls, vocation prayer shawls, prayer shawls and cuddle bears for

the ill, stations of the cross for all parishioners, pocket rosaries for parishioners and those serving in the military, candles for the death of a loved one, death of a child and miscarriage. They crocheted baby hats donated to Mercy and Iowa Health hospitals in Des Moines. 'Seasons of Hope' has been a source of healing for those parishioners experiencing the death of a loved one.

Our group meets on the first Sunday of the month at 5:00 PM unless it falls on a holiday weekend. Come join us!



Marriage Blessings

Stewardship Commission

The members of the Sacred Heart Stewardship Commission are always honored to share our time, talent and treasures with our parish family and the 2011-2012 fiscal year has been no different.

For several years, the Stewardship Commission has committed to studying a book as a group to keep our hearts and minds open to stewardship in the midst of our daily lives. This year our lives and hopefully the lives of those we touch were enriched by the thoughts of Colleen Smith in “Catholic Stewardship: Sharing God’s Gifts” as well as the “Pillars of Parish Stewardship” manual prepared by the Diocese of Wichita.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal was kicked off with a heartfelt request from Bishop Amos through a DVD that was witnessed at Mass the weekend of September 17 & 18. The following weekend, Robin Lilienthal graciously expanded our hearts even further and Sacred Heart once again answered the call to give generously to our diocese and our parish. A big “thank you” is also extended to Doug Swanson who for many years has coordinated the collection efforts of this annual campaign.

Christ the King Sunday was celebrated with an Appreciation Brunch for parish volunteers. In the true spirit of Stewardship, everyone brought something to contribute to our feast. A slide show revealed ministry opportunities within the parish. While our waistlines expanded, so did our ideas of new ways we could share our time and



Appreciation Brunch

talents to support our church family.

Hospitality has been the Commission’s primary focus for the fiscal year. What is it? How do we do it? Who can help us? With those thoughts in mind, two members of the Commission attended a Diocesan sponsored workshop with guest speaker Richard McCorry. Our team has ventured out to study other parishes in the area and is beginning to establish a hospitality committee to help us develop practical ways to express hospitality beyond Mass.

“... to keep our hearts and minds open to stewardship in the midst of our daily lives.”

“Mobilizing Volunteers for Ministry” was another learning opportunity for Commission members to expand our skills in inviting disciples to join into parish ministries. Two members were able to attend the day long workshop in Stuart. Perhaps, the most important discovery was that sometimes it is necessary to “fire” volunteers or dis-

band committees, so that the gifts and talents of those individuals can be shared in new and different ways.

In an effort to connect young adults more fully with our parish, the Stewardship Commission hosted a night to play video games complete with childcare, so our young parents could enjoy some bonding time without little hands and feet to monitor. The event was well attended and we’re not certain who had more fun...the little ones or the big ones!

In May of 2012 we were delighted to celebrate the completion of the “Color Our Space” project. The newly installed stained glass windows invite rainbows of color onto the Gathering Space walls, floor and even people. One never knows what sort of optical treat we are in store for when we open the door and step into this transformed space!

It is with deep appreciation that we offer ourselves to our parish family. We are thankful for the opportunities that we have been given to serve you through this past year. We look forward to the opportunities that await our future. Most importantly, we invite as many of you as would like to come along to join us in the story.



Young Adults Game Night

Church Life Commission

The goal of the Church Life Commission is to create opportunities to expand ministries to involve all members of the parish. We hope to help each individual develop stronger bonds within the parish, deanery, and diocese, and to make Jesus Christ the center of all activities within this christian community.

This past year, the Church Life Commission hosted a potluck for our church softball team, "The Bingos". After a victorious season it was fun to celebrate together. The softball league is a great way to meet new friends and get to know the people of our parish.

A Trunk-or-Treat was held on the Friday night before Halloween. We had many volunteers decorate the trunks of their cars and hand out candy to children dressed in Halloween costumes. Areas were available to make a craft, play games, eat a snack, and

have a spooky picture taken with your family. We plan to do the same this fall. So come join us this



Trunk or Treat

Halloween for some games and laughter.

The Mardi Gras celebration was a hit this year. Live music by Flatland Frank and the Flat Cats drew a big crowd and the catered dinner was delicious. The youth served the meals and were a big help in the kitchen. The pro-

"... develop stronger bonds within the parish, deanery, and diocese..."

ceeds from this event went to fund Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bowl for Kids Sake", and bowling and pizza for our youth to participate. It was a great fundraiser. We have had many requests to keep that tradition alive so buy your tickets early next spring!

The Church Life Commission also provided a meal after Sunday night vespers during Lent. It's always nice when we can come together to help.

Our group has many fun activities planned for the upcoming year and hope that many of you will take part in the fun. The Church Life Commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Come join us!

Knights of Columbus



The Knights of Columbus meet on the second Tuesday of the month for a meal and meeting. Below are some of the many ways they are involved in the life of the church:

- A yearly Tootsie Roll Drive to help people with special needs
- Serving Coffee & Donuts after Mass on Sunday mornings
- Annual Golf Tournament held at Westwood Golf Course

- Tailgate Party on Newton's last Friday night home football game
- Three Bingo nights were held in November, December, and February
- Supported Right-to-life by placing crosses on the

church lawn

- Fish fries were held on Fridays during Lent
- Helping those in need with odd jobs around the house and yard
- Grilling meat for the Community Meals
- Attended an Iowa Cubs Game



Knights at Christmas Eve Mass

SHARE Preschool

SHARE Preschool Philosophy

“The mission of Sacred Heart Parish includes assisting parents in the development of their children. To carry out this mission, we offer preschoolers a christian setting in which to grow, learn, and develop physically, intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and socially.”

Sacred Heart Church houses SHARE Preschool and is located in the lower level of the building. The preschool is directed by Cindy Polastrini and assisted by Ann Buch, Chris Dunham, and Lisa Marston. The preschool is state licensed and the staff is certified in CPR and First Aid.

This past year 75 students were enrolled in SHARE preschool. The students enjoyed the large classroom with many learning centers, large indoor and outdoor play areas with new equipment. There is an excellent variety of play materials.

The curriculum includes Handwriting Without Tears and The Letter People. The students also learn about famous people in history, different animals, the different religious holidays, the weather, and family.

Professionals in the Newton Community visit SHARE Preschool each year. A local dentist talked to the students about dental health. Members of the Newton Fire Department dressed in their heavy fire



SHARE Preschool students

clothes, bring the large fire truck and discuss safety with the students.

The students enjoy the yearly trips to the Post Office to mail valentines, Domino’s Pizza, Carroll’s Pumpkin Farm, Maytag Park, and Mariposa.

On Halloween, dressed in costume the preschoolers trick or treat the parish staff. For Thanksgiving they enjoy a child-friendly Thanksgiving Feast.

SHARE Preschool follows the state nutritional guidelines for snacks

served each day to preschoolers.

A weekly newsletter is sent home to the parents. Parent/Teacher conferences are held twice a year. The staff encourages parent in-

volvement.

The preschoolers have a Christmas Program for parents and grandparents in December and an End-of-Year Program in May when the 4 year olds graduate to Kindergarten.

Class Times:

3-4 year old students:
Wednesday and Friday
8:45—11:15 a.m.

Cost is \$85 per month.

4-5 year old students:
Monday, Tuesday, and
Thursday mornings
8:30—11:15 am

Monday, Tuesday, and
Thursday afternoons
12:00—2:45 pm.

The cost is \$110 per month.

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesday and Friday
8:00 am—Noon.

“We offer preschoolers a Christian setting in which to grow, learn, and develop...”



SHARE Preschool received airplane as a gift from parents.

The Catholic Messenger

Recently, The Catholic Messenger was honored with two Catholic Press Association awards. The awards were presented to The Catholic Messenger for best front page (broadsheet division) winning third place and honorable mention with a story written by editor, Barb Arland-Fye highlighting the 10th Anniversary of Bishop Martin Amos serving as a bishop.



Community Meals Ministry

The Catholic Messenger is committed to excellence bringing the most current world, national, and local news and how it relates to us as Catholics. The Diocese of Davenport strongly believes ‘The Catholic Messenger’ is beneficial to the people and envisions every Catholic family reading and reflecting upon the information it provides.

Operating funds for the publication and distribution of “The Catholic Messenger” are

“... committed to excellence bringing the most current world, national, and local news...”

billed to every parish in the Diocese of Davenport. Costs are based on a minimum of 50% of the families in the Parish membership list which is 363 subscriptions. Even though the parish pays for 363, only 297 households are actual receiving “The Catholic Messenger”.

2011-12 Annual Subscription
Amount due: \$9,438

Total amount paid by parishioners: \$3,647

Total amount paid by the parish: \$5,791

Parishioners are only pay-

ing for 140, leaving Sacred Heart parish to pay for 223 subscriptions of “The Catholic Messenger”.

An article in the July 27, 2011 issue of the Catholic Messenger featured the Community Meals Ministry. “Newton Parish Launched Free-meal Ministry” written by Celine Klosterman describes the vision of parishioner, Shirley Dont.

“We recognize there are different kinds of hunger. Sometimes, people just need someone to eat with and talk with once in awhile,” Shirley Dont said. We appreciate The Catholic Messenger including the stories of our church in their publications.

Sacramental Records

The church has several record books to record each individual sacrament parishioners receive here at Sacred Heart. Confirmation and Marriage records are also sent to their church of Baptism. All sacramental records are reported to the Diocese at the end of the calendar year.

Number of registered families 731

| | | | |
|---|------|---|----|
| Number of Individual Parishioners | 1775 | Number of Confirmations by the Bishop | 14 |
| Number of baptisms of infants..... | 11 | Number of Confirmations by the Priest..... | 2 |
| Number of baptisms of adults | 3 | Number of marriages in year..... | 7 |
| Number of deaths..... | 12 | | |
| Number of First Communions..... | 11 | | |



Twins are baptized

Autoshare Giving

Autoshare Giving is a flexible and convenient direct deposit service that replaces the need for contribution envelopes. Autoshare Giving provides parishioners a way to improve their commitment to consistent financial giving. Autoshare Giving supports the Stewardship way of life by encouraging parishioners to make their giving planned, intentional, and proportionate.

Please review the component on page 23, "Guidelines for Giving" and use the chart as a guide to help you decide the amount you wish to contribute to the parish.

To enroll in our Automated Giving program, complete and sign an Authorization form.

"... A way to improve their commitment to consistent financial giving."



Sharing our monetary gifts

(Forms are available in the office). When complete, return the form to the parish office along with a voided check from the bank account you want us to use for your Automated Giving.

This will provide the in-

formation we need to set your request up with your bank (the identification number and account number) and will be held in strict confidence. You may continue Autoshare Giving as long as you wish and you may change the amount you wish to give at anytime.

Approximately 30% of our annual income is generated through Autoshare Giving. Autoshare Giving is a simple way to start giving, to be good stewards of God's gifts, and to share what he has given. Give it a try! Make that small step toward discipleship in the financial area of your life.

Building and Grounds

The Maintenance Committee annually inspects all parish property, and prepares a schedule for replacement, renovation, or removal.

Improvements/Repairs

July 2011 – June 2012

- Repairs were made to the driveway and parking lot
- New kitchen storm door was installed
- The hood, stove & oven in the kitchen were cleaned.
- The floors of McCann Center and Gathering Space were polished and the carpet in the church and nursery were professionally cleaned.
- A tree was removed after storm damage
- New bricks were installed on the entrance sign then landscaping was completed around the sign
- A new handicap drinking fountain was installed
- A new deep freezer was donated
- New drain pipes were installed in the men's bathroom and church bathroom in the hall.
- Internet connection was run to the laptop computer in the Gathering Space
- Stained glass windows were installed in the Gathering Space
- Stained glass windows in vestibule of the church were repaired
- New blinds were installed in the adult room
- A large flat-screen TV and DVD player were installed in the adult room



Entrance Sign Repair

2011-12 Annual Report



Prayer Shawl Ministry made rosaries for all parishioners

Income:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income | \$ 336,633 |
| Auxiliary Income | \$ 34,896 |
| Development & Capital Campaign | \$ 18,721 |
| Transfer from Savings | \$ 7,000 |
| Investments & Bequest | \$ 53,930 |
| Other Associated Organizations | \$ 86,765 |
| SHARE Preschool | <u>\$ 69,580</u> |
| Total Income: | \$ 607,525 |

Expenses:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Administrative Expense | \$ 290,727 |
| Church Life Expense | \$ 2,872 |
| Family Life Expense | \$ 796 |
| Faith Formation Expense | \$ 84,083 |
| Social Action Expense | \$ 6,934 |
| Liturgy Expense | \$ 26,615 |
| Other Associated Organization Expense | \$ 84,753 |
| SHARE Preschool | <u>\$ 73,928</u> |
| Total Expenses: | \$ 570,708 |
| Net Income: | \$ 36,817 |

*"The Financial Statements for
the fiscal year, July 2011
through June 2012.:"*



Cookie Walk

Balance Sheet



Memorial Day at Sacred Heart Cemetery

Balance—June 30, 2012 **Balance—June 30, 2011**

Assets:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bank Assets | \$ 147,661 | \$ 140,954 |
| Investments | <u>\$ 422,115</u> | <u>\$ 391,756</u> |
| Total Checking/Savings: | \$ 569,776 | \$ 532,710 |

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Fixed Assets | <u>\$ 774,011</u> | <u>\$ 780,453</u> |
| Total Assets: | \$ 1,343,787 | \$ 1,313,163 |

*"The Balance Sheet with
previous year comparison"*

Liabilities & Equity:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Payroll Liabilities | \$ 3,478 | \$ 2,613 |
| Other Parish Liabilities | <u>\$ 6,364</u> | <u>\$ 13,423</u> |
| Total Liabilities: | \$ 9,842 | \$ 16,036 |

Equity:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Opening Balance Equity | \$ 291,961 | \$ 291,961 |
| Retained Earnings | \$ 1,005,166 | \$ 910,192 |
| Net Income | <u>\$ 36,8198</u> | <u>\$ 94,974</u> |
| Total Equity: | \$ 1,333,945 | \$ 1,297,127 |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total Liabilities & Equity: | \$ 1,343,787 | \$ 1,313,163 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|



Baptism during Easter Vigil

2012-2013 Annual Budget



The Choir leads the assembly in song.

July 2012—June 2013

Income:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income | \$ 344,635 |
| Auxiliary Income | \$ 30,640 |
| Development & Capital Campaign | \$ 18,500 |
| Investments & Bequest | \$ 75 |
| Other Associated Organizations | \$ 82,100 |
| SHARE Preschool | \$ 66,758 |
| Transfer from Savings for major repairs | \$ 32,400 |
| Transfer from Memorial Account | \$ 30,000 |
| Total Income: | \$ 605,108 |

Expenses:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Administrative Expense | \$ 324,050 |
| Church Life Expense | \$ 3,920 |
| Family Life Expense | \$ 1,894 |
| Faith Formation Expense | \$ 92,755 |
| Social Action Expense | \$ 9,004 |
| Liturgy Expense | \$ 24,680 |
| Other Associated Organization Expense | \$ 76,500 |
| SHARE Preschool | \$ 66,758 |
| Restricted transfers for Capital Improvements | \$ 3,000 |
| Total Expenses: | \$ 602,561 |

"The Budget for the upcoming year, July 2012 through June 2013."



Knights grilling for Community Meal

Guidelines for Giving

How do we decide how much to give to our parish? We hope that you will consider following these principles, drawn from the Scriptures and offered by the Church.

Give to God out of Gratitude

“What return can I make to the Lord, for all the good he has done for me?”
Psalm 116:12

It is impossible to give to God. He already owns everything. Our giving should be done not due to parish needs, but in gratitude, as a return to God for his generosity to us.

Plan Your Giving

“Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Take the time to prayerfully decide what to give. Don't give just out of habit or “Whatever is in the billfold,” but plan your gift as carefully as you would choose a gift for one you love.

Give to God First

“seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”
Matthew 6:33

Don't wait until all your other bills are paid before you do your giving. Write your checks to God first, through gifts to the church and to the poor, and then pay your bills with the rest. This practice is a powerful symbol of what, or Who, truly comes first in our life.

Give Proportionately

“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.” Luke 12:48

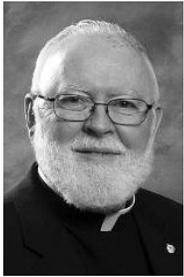
For years the parish has suggested that we base our giving on the biblical tithe, or 10% of income. This practice was common in Old Testament times and Jesus recommends it in Luke's Gospel. The Church suggests that each Catholic set as a goal the tithe, with the first 5% going directly to the parish, and the second 5% for the poor and other good works.

What proportion of God's gift do you currently give? Use the chart below to find what percentage you are currently giving. Find your income at left, then move right until you find your weekly offering. What % are you at? Could you take a step? We encourage all parishioners to set 5% as their goal. If you are already at 5%, or could start giving 5% immediately, that would be great. If not, could you move toward that goal by taking a step (or two) toward 5%?

Weekly Gift to Parish (as % of income)

| Household Income | 0.5% | 1.0% | 1.5% | 2.0% | 2.5% | 3.0% | 3.5% | 4.0% | 4.5% | 5.0% |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| \$14,000 (\$7/hr.) | \$1.40 | \$2.80 | \$4.20 | \$5.60 | \$7.00 | \$8.40 | \$9.80 | \$11.20 | \$12.60 | \$14.00 |
| \$16,000 (\$8/hr.) | \$1.60 | \$3.20 | \$4.80 | \$6.40 | \$8.00 | \$9.60 | \$11.20 | \$12.80 | \$14.40 | \$16.00 |
| \$20,000 (\$10/hr.) | \$2.00 | \$4.00 | \$6.00 | \$8.00 | \$10.00 | \$12.00 | \$14.00 | \$16.00 | \$18.00 | \$20.00 |
| \$30,000 (\$15/hr.) | \$3.00 | \$6.00 | \$9.00 | \$12.00 | \$15.00 | \$18.00 | \$21.00 | \$24.00 | \$27.00 | \$30.00 |
| \$40,000 (\$20/hr.) | \$4.00 | \$8.00 | \$12.00 | \$16.00 | \$20.00 | \$24.00 | \$28.00 | \$32.00 | \$36.00 | \$40.00 |
| \$60,000 (\$30/hr.) | \$6.00 | \$12.00 | \$18.00 | \$24.00 | \$30.00 | \$36.00 | \$42.00 | \$48.00 | \$54.00 | \$60.00 |
| \$80,000 (\$40/hr.) | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$24.00 | \$32.00 | \$40.00 | \$48.00 | \$56.00 | \$64.00 | \$72.00 | \$80.00 |
| \$100,000 (\$50/hr.) | \$10.00 | \$20.00 | \$30.00 | \$40.00 | \$50.00 | \$60.00 | \$70.00 | \$80.00 | \$90.00 | \$100.00 |
| \$150,000 (\$75/hr.) | \$15.00 | \$30.00 | \$45.00 | \$60.00 | \$75.00 | \$90.00 | \$105.00 | \$120.00 | \$135.00 | \$150.00 |

Parish Staff



Rev. William E. Reynolds
Pastor



Deacon Dan Goetz



Tom Netzel
Choir Director/Organist



Bob Carter
Janitor



Tammy Norcross

Pastoral Minister, Lifelong Faith Formation
B.A., Corporate Communication, Clarke College Master's of Pastoral Studies, St. Ambrose Univ.
Certificate of Youth Ministry
Liturgical Leader Certificate
Member of the parish since 1985
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 19 years



Ann Ratliff

Administrative Assistant
AA, Commercial Art, DMACC
Certificate in Tax Preparation
Lifelong member of the parish
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 18 years



Kathy Hammerly

Pastoral Minister, Stewardship
B.A., Education, Central College
Certificate of Youth Ministry
Stewardship Institute Graduate
Lifelong member of the parish
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 16 years



Clarissa Bloom

Youth Minister
A.A.S., Nursing, DMACC
Certificate of Youth Ministry
Lifelong member of the parish
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 7 years



Mary Beth Lawson

K-6 Faith Formation Coordinator
B.A. Elementary Education, Buena Vista
Member of the parish since Easter Vigil 1999
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 4 years

SHARE Preschool Staff



Cindy Pollastrini



Ann Buch



Chris Dunham



Lisa Marston

Scared Heart Mission Statement

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1115 S. 8th Ave E.
PO Box 1478
Newton, IA 50208

Phone: 641-792-2050
Fax: 641-792-8639
E-mail: shnewton@iowatelecom.net
Website: shcnewton.com

We, the members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, as a caring Christian community, help one another to live, to nurture, and to celebrate God's gifts.

We encourage others on their faith journeys to join us in giving witness to our Catholic faith and to grow as disciples.

We celebrate the sacraments and receive the gift of grace to strengthen our faith and to enrich our relationships with Christ and his Church.

We gather together to pray, to worship, to give thanks, to petition, to seek comfort, to share joys and sorrows, and to experience God's love, joy, and peace.

