

Our Blessed Voices

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BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Souls4Soles in a New School Year

by Jennifer Nottleman



For most, the beginning of a new school year is a very exciting time. There is anticipation of a new teacher, the possibility of a new classmate, new school supplies and new school shoes. But for some less fortunate families, the beginning of a new school year can also be very stressful. For those less fortunate, there usually isn't enough money at the end of the month for school supplies and new school shoes.



Deb Cabela and Mary Ryan organized "Soles4Souls in a New School Year" to help some of the less fortunate families of Blessed Sacrament School purchase a new pair of school shoes and school supplies for their children. Their efforts started in 2008 when Deb helped a new parish family enroll in Blessed Sacrament School in the middle of the school year. The children needed school supplies and uniforms. Anyone that has purchased school uniforms knows uniforms are less expensive than department store clothes. Most uniform pieces are gender neutral so they get a lot of use. But buying uniforms for several kids the first time can be overwhelming. Deb, as she often does, stepped in to help this family. Doing so made her wonder how many other families could have used some help earlier in the year.

Deb and Mary knew people in our parish would help if they knew the need existed. So they contacted the school to see how many families qualified for aid. They then started a letter writing campaign with the stipulation that no family with school aged kids would be asked to help. The first year was a success; they raised enough money to give 20 students a \$50 scrip card to Shopko. Deb and Mary continued to carry their efforts into 2010. The response was even better than the previous year. Donations anywhere from \$10 to \$500 came pouring in. Soles4Souls in a New School Year was able to help all 30 qualifying families. This year, students in Kindergarten through 5th grade received a \$50 Shopko card while students in grades 6 - 8 received a \$75 Shopko card. After taking care of all the students, there was money leftover that will be used to pay those students' field trip fees. After all the field trip fees, any remaining money will be distributed to those same families as uniform vouchers for next year.

Thank you to Deb, Mary and all who have participated, for making the start of this school year more enjoyable for so many. If you would like to be included as one of the families that help with this great cause next year, send an email to Deb at dcabela@lps.org.

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The **Knights of Columbus** is a Fraternal benefits organization for men 18 and older to serve the church, community, family and youth in service and financial support and to continue all ongoing, worthwhile projects identified by the membership. Last year the Blessed Sacrament Knights of Columbus Council 11001 donated over 15,000 hours of volunteer service throughout our church, school, community, vocations, and youth projects.

We contribute to our parish and school through our support of:

- Fest Quest
- Table For Ten
- Pro-Life activities including the 'One Rose, One Life' campaign
- Lenten Fish Fries
- The annual school Christmas program
- Bibles for Blessed Sacrament and CCD 8TH grade graduates
- Our council's Rose for Motherhood program
- Sponsoring of monthly coffee and rolls



We are involved in the community through:

- Support for the TV Mass for the homebound
- Roadside clean-up
- Tootsie Roll sales to support Villa Maria and the Special Olympics
- Occasional breakfasts following Sunday Masses; with proceeds going to important causes
- Support for Matt Talbot Kitchen
- Support for St. Vincent DePaul
- Blood Drives

We support vocations via:

- Donations to the St Gregory the Great Seminary Library
- Financial support to many of the seminarians who attend St. Gregory
- Praying the Rosary every Wednesday as part of our parish Celebration of the Year of the Priests

We support our youth through:

- An annual Free Throw contest
- An annual Soccer Challenge**

In addition to the events listed above, we raise funds not only through our Lenten Fish Fries, but also by selling stadium seats at Husker football games and working the concession stands at Nebraska men's basketball games. Our 4th Degree members hold Honor Guards at many Masses through out the year and at the annual Corpus Christi celebration.

We also provide activities that support our brother Knights and their families, as well as helping provide for their financial security through the order's top-rated portfolio of Life Insurance, Long Term Care Insurance, and Annuity products. If you are interested in finding out more about the Knights of Columbus, please contact our Grand Knight, **Clem Pella**, at **402-327-8666** or **KofC11001@gmail.com**.

**On October 2nd, 2010 the following boys from Blessed Sacrament competed and won the annual Council and District Soccer Challenge:

Age 10 category: **Jackson Lemon**

Age 11 category: **Christian Salinas**

Age 13 category: **Andres Salinas**

CONGRATULATIONS from your Knights of Columbus Council 11001.

The primary focus of the music ministry is to support the assembly in the singing of hymns and responses, and in so doing, to give glory to God and foster holiness and unity among the faithful.

Here at Blessed Sacrament we have several people who offer their time and talents in the music ministry. The music ministry is generally divided into the following roles: choirs, cantors, and organists. For the past several years, we have been blessed with the leadership of Hannah Jo Smith as director of these ministries. Hannah Jo and her husband, Bill, (who served as organist for the 10:00 Mass,) are enjoying a year-long sabbatical in Germany for the academic year of 2010-2011.

The Missa Cantores Choir, our main parish choir, sings regularly at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass and rehearses on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. This group draws on the rich tradition of a cappella and accompanied sacred music. The choir is currently under the direction of **Martin Cook**. Martin is from England, and is here in Lincoln studying at the UNL School of Music for a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree in choral conducting. He is in his second year of a three year program of study. Martin has been involved in various aspects of music education and church music for over 35 years. Martin is also an accomplished pianist and organist. We welcome him to Blessed Sacrament parish! He enthusiastically invites all singers to come and join the choir! We currently have about 15 adult members, but there is always room for more. All ages are welcome, and no audition is necessary. You may contact Martin at choralcook@hotmail.com, or just show up in the choir loft on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

The Blessed Sacrament Girls Choir sings about twice a month at the 5:30 Mass on Saturdays. The girls choir is open to girls in 4th-8th grade, and rehearses at 4:15 (before the 5:30 Mass.) The group is directed by **Sherri Suelter**. Sherri, along with her husband Jason and their six children, are Blessed Sacrament parishioners. Sherri has a deep love of music and enjoys inspiring others, especially children, to give back to God by offering Him praise in song. If you have questions about the girls choir, you may reach Sherri at jsuelter5@aol.com or **438-6352**.

The cantor ministry at Blessed Sacrament is served by seven singers, who rotate between all the Masses. Our cantors are: **Muriel Beardslee, Howard Blake, Cathy Dorenbach, Marlin Roesler, Fran Westfall, Avery Appleget, and Margaret Mattern**. The primary role of the cantor is to lead the assembly in the singing of the psalm during the Liturgy of the Word (the part of the Mass during which the sacred scriptures are proclaimed.) The cantor also announces and leads the other hymns and acclamations of the Mass.

The role of the organist/pianist at the parish is currently served by **Michael Cotton, Jackie Peterson, and Cheryl Johnson**. We have recently welcomed a new keyboardist, **Ashley Meradith**, who sometimes plays for 5:30 Masses with the girls choir.

It takes commitment, lively faith, and a joyful heart to lead music throughout the church year. While musical talent is important and necessary, a willing heart is perhaps the greater requirement. Many people think, "I'm not gifted enough..." Is God calling you to be a part of this ministry? There are a variety of ways to participate. You can sing or play an instrument in a group that has an ongoing commitment, or you may minister as a cantor or accompanist on an occasional basis. You could even volunteer to start and coordinate a new group! If you would like to explore the idea further, our interim music ministry coordinator, **Jackie Peterson**, can discuss these options more fully to help you determine how you'd like to become involved. You may contact Jackie at **476-0296**.



It's our job as parents...

by anonymous

Charitable giving is a topic that we are passionate about, we enjoy giving back and appreciate the opportunities we've had to do so. As parents, it is our duty to make sure we teach our children to do the same.

Here are a few tips we offer all parents:

- Charitable giving is three things: Time, Talent, and Treasure. Everyone can do something - regardless of their age
- Be mindful of your own giving and tell your children what and why you're doing it. Children emulate what they see. If you work to be generous of heart, they'll follow your lead
- Let them put the money in the collection basket at church. When they're old enough to earn their own money, ask them how much they would like to donate before you attend church
- Talk to them about taking 10% of the gross amount they earn and giving it to something they feel is worth while. Usually, you can start teaching them about this in 4th grade, once they've learned how to calculate percentages
- Participate in community collections for food and clothing, sponsor a family during the Christmas holiday or, make meals for families with an ill member
- Give time to helping people through the occupation you already have - Pro Bono work, carpentry skills, etc. We can all share our talent.

Giving of yourself in any capacity is not only immensely rewarding, but you are also training the next generation to follow in your footsteps.



Pastor: Rev John Sullivan
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In Residence: Rev. Casey Porada

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