

Our Blessed Voices



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Summer 2011

by Fr. John Sullivan

The New Translation

This past Lent I had the privilege of teaching a course on the Sacred Liturgy, or the Mass. The occasion for the course was the upcoming changes in the translation of the Mass. The purpose, however, was to be able to delve more deeply into the meaning of the Mass. The course was broken down into six one hour sessions, which at first seems like a lot of time, but it very rapidly became clear that we had a great deal more content than could possibly fit into six hours. In this series of three articles, I will review some of what was covered in the course.

The first session was entitled *Signs and Symbols*. The Sacraments of the Church are signs and symbols, they tell us by means that we can sense (see, taste, feel, hear, smell) of the un-sensed spiritual realities of the conferral of grace, the forgiveness of sins, etc. We all can probably recall the classic definition of a sacrament from the Baltimore Catechism: A sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace. But in the course, we actually took a step back and looked at the nature of signs in our world. Have you ever thought about

the fact that all language is a complex set of signs? In this context, the liturgy too is a complex set of signs, each with a meaning that is not arbitrary, but rather comes to us from sacred scripture and our spiritual history. We can say that there is a *language* of the liturgy, and in order to really understand what the Mass means, we have to understand that *language*. This is why it is important for us to study the sacred Scriptures and the history of the Church and the history of the people of God.

In the second session we went over several definitions with the idea of understanding better what we do now. One word, which isn't very commonly used, is Kerygma. Kerygma means the initial proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. It's that core message that brings hearts to believe. Another definition that we examined is liturgy. Liturgy is official public worship of the Church. So, for example, the Mass is a liturgy. But we could also say that a Baptism is a liturgy.

We also went through a description of the parts of Mass. We should remember

first and foremost that the Mass is one prayer, from start to finish, and that we really only break it down into parts to assist our understanding. Having said that, we can talk about two main parts of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

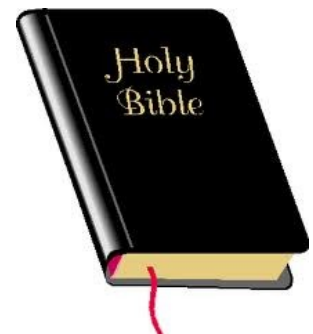
In the Liturgy of the Word we have the greeting, the penitential act, the Kyrie, the Gloria, the collect (or opening prayer), the readings, the homily, the creed and the general intercessions. The Liturgy of the Eucharist contains the offertory, the Eucharistic Prayer (which includes the words of consecration which change the bread and wine into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ), the communion rite and the concluding prayers.

By studying the Mass as it is now, we properly prepare ourselves for understanding and implementing the changes that are coming our way this November. I truly believe that this is a graced moment in the history of the Church and that we will truly benefit by enthusiastically embracing the new translation of the Mass.



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Our Blessed Voices

“Unsettling” Discovery

by Jennifer Nottleman

Our beloved Blessed Sacrament School building has been causing a great deal of concern for Fr. Sullivan, Mrs. Kruger and our Buildings and Grounds Committee within the past year or so. It all started when we noticed settlement in the southeast corner of our school’s “new” building. The southeast corner of the gymnasium slab had started to settle and crack which continued across the hallway to the south. The effects of this were also noticed along the west side of the preschool room where the concrete slab had also settled. So many horrible possibilities entered our minds. We already face huge budget challenges, if the building is in need of major structural improvements, how will we find the money for the repairs?

Thankfully, we have a parishioner that is a Structural Engineer, Jason Suelter, and is an active member of our parish. He serves as the chairperson for the Parish Council Finance Committee, his wife Sherri leads our Girls Choir and four of their six children are students in our school. Through contacts Jason has at Structural Design Group he contacted a Geotechnical Engineer for assistance. Fortunately the Geotechnical Engineer had access to the documents from when the “new” building was constructed in 1982. With the help of these experts, we believe the problem is not nearly as bad as we first feared.

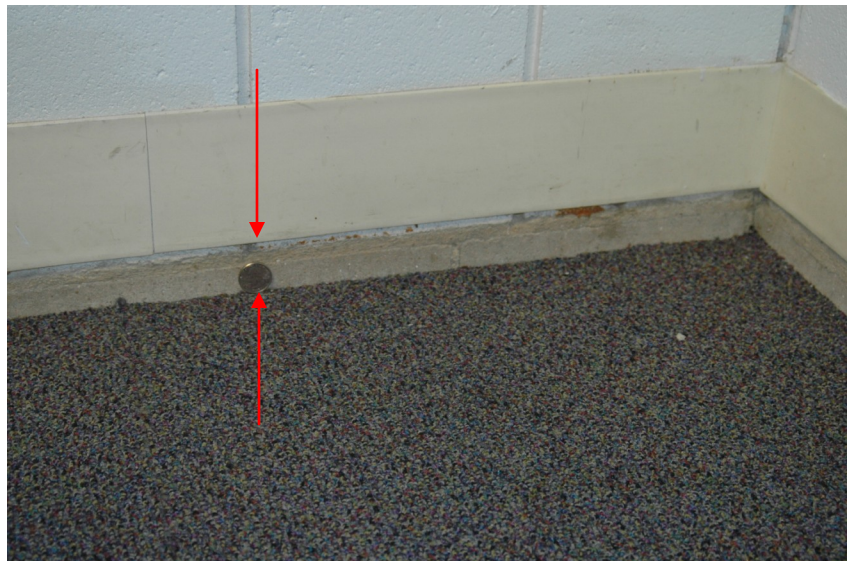
The problem appears to be that the tree adjacent to the school has been desiccating the soil with its root system which extends under a significant portion of the southeast corner of the school. As this occurred, the soil in the affected area slowly collapsed which

caused the concrete slab to settle. While that sounds dreadful, it isn’t so terrible. Concrete slabs are poured next to, not on top of, a building’s footings. Therefore, we are confident our building structure is secure. The walls are sturdy and the roof is strong. The damage we need to repair is the concrete slab. Unfortunately, it is a large slab that includes a classroom, the hallway, a stairwell and a large portion of the gym’s southeast corner.

So how do we fix this? The first step was removal of the tree. This was completed while our students were on Easter break. The next step will take patience. The moisture in the soil needs to replenish itself, which could take a couple of years. During this time, the building structure will be closely observed to verify that additional settlement isn’t occurring. Once we are confident the settlement issues

We are hopeful the moisture levels improve quickly as our PTA and Athletic Committee have worked together over the past decade raising money for a gym renovation. Their plans include painting, installing new bleachers and a new floor. Our gym serves so many purposes for our parish. It is used for Fest Quest, parish retreats, Lenten meals, funeral dinners, fellowship after Mass, large meetings, potlucks, and countless other parish wide activities. It is so much more than a gymnasium.

(Picture: This picture shows how far the slab has settled in the Preschool room. That is a quarter standing up on end.)



have been resolved, we will commence with the remedial work required for the concrete slab in the affected area.

2011 Fest Quest - October 9th

by Angela Davenport

What: Known as “Fest Quest”, the fall festival event is focused on community fellowship, family fun and activities for all ages to help raise money for the parish needs. The funds raised this year will go towards repairing the sloping floor in the gymnasium and improving electrical outlets.

When: Sunday, Oct 9th 11 AM to 3 PM on the Parish grounds and in the Blessed Sacrament School.

What: Food, adult and children’s games, cake decorating contest, entertainment, silent and live auctions.

How Can You Help? We are in need of many types of donations such as time, talent and treasure.

Talents: Do you have a special talent or service? Share this God given gift in the form of donating a “gift certificate” of an hour or two of your talent or service as an auction item. Some ideas include:

- Do you have the knack for wood working? Offer to teach someone how to build a park bench.
- Do you have the skill of cake decorating? Offer to teach someone how to create their own cake masterpiece.
- Do you have mechanical skills? Offer to teach someone how to change the oil in their vehicle.
- Do you have a lawn service? Offer a gift certificate for a free mowing or two.
- Do you have a musical talent? Offer a gift certificate for a few musical lessons or two.
- Calling artists and crafters.showcase your talents by donating a piece of your artwork, jewelry or craft for the event.

Treasure: Each year we seek donors to who are interested in giving a financial donation to help cover some of the general costs of the event. Additional this year, we are seeking financial donations to develop a pool of money to be used to purchase auction items from businesses at cost. Many times businesses are unable to donate a large item but are willing to sell it to us at cost. As a result, we are seeking financial donations to purchase a few items this way for the auction this year.

Time: As in the past, we will need over 75 volunteers to make Fest Quest happen. As the event gets closer, we will be asking parishioners to sign up to help in a variety of ways throughout the event weekend. If you are interested in helping on the planning team, please contact Angela or Sheri. Planning team duties require only a few hours a month in Aug and or Sept. Please note: For those individuals who expressed interest in getting involved via the Time and Talent Survey, we will contact you in the coming weeks.

To donate your talents or treasures, please contact the Fest Quest Donations Chair **Maggie Aldrich** at 402-261-4122. To learn more about opportunities to donate your time, please contact event co-chairs **Sheri King** at 402-580-9986 or **Angela Davenport** at 402-610-3689.

The Fest Quest planning team is already working on preparing for this wonderful day of community fellowship. Numerous new elements will be added to this year’s event. If you have ideas or suggestions about Fest Quest, please share them by calling Sheri King or Angela Davenport, we would love to hear from you!



Watch the parish bulletin for more event information in the coming weeks.

**SAVE THE DATE:
FEST QUEST 2011
OCTOBER 9TH
FOOD, FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP**



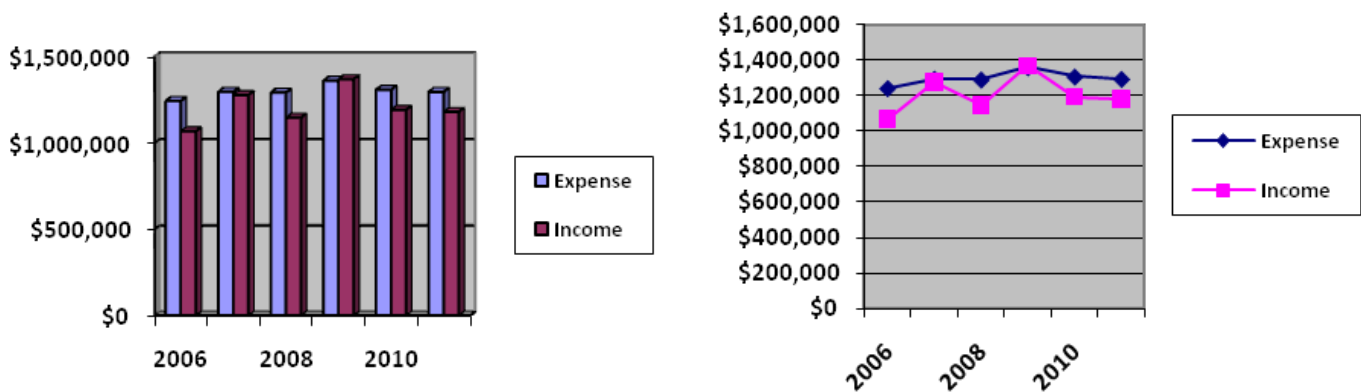
Financial Update

by Mike Beran

As many of our families have been impacted by the downturn in the economy, our parish has been impacted also. We have seen a drop in our regular giving to the parish while we have worked to hold the line on expenses. Unfortunately this has meant the positive momentum we had coming out of our 2009 Balance Our Budget (BOB) campaign, to reduce and eliminate our operating deficit, has taken a step back. But we still see positive signs for our financial outlook.

In these tough times our goal has been to limit our expenses while also promoting a stewardship lifestyle in our parish so that we all can participate fully with our gifts in the mission of our parish; to bring Christ to our parishioners and our community as a whole.

These graphs show the actual parish income and expenses from 2006-2010 and the budget figures for 2011. As shown in the graphs, we have only had a 4% expense growth from 2006 to 2010 while we saw a 13% drop in giving (income) from 2009 to 2010.



At Blessed Sacrament we are truly blessed with many families that are very generous with their time, talent, and treasure. To help further foster this sense of stewardship in our parish we have several programs that we have launched recently and others that we want to get started this year. Highlights of a few of those programs are below:

Online Giving

Our Online Giving program was launched just over a year ago and so far over 100 families have switched to online giving and online school tuition payments. This has become a great benefit to our parish by saving administrative time and expense, allowing our finance committee to better forecast and budget, and also giving our families greater flexibility to setup their giving on a schedule that works best for them while being able to change their gifts or giving schedule at any time online. Check out our parish website, www.blessedsacramentlincoln.com, and click on the Online Giving logo on the right side of the homepage to find out more or to signup.

7 Steps for Financial Freedom

The *7 Steps for Financial Freedom* program was started at Blessed Sacrament two years ago with great excitement by many families that took the course. It is a great program that allows us to take a personal look at our finances from a Catholic perspective. This is an area where we all have the most trouble seeking God's will yet when we open this area up to God and truly allow Him to guide their financial decisions we will see a vast difference in how they look at their finances. We are working to setup more classes in the parish and also online later this year, so look for the advertisements in upcoming bulletins.

Stewardship Campaign

This fall we will be launching a stewardship campaign within the parish. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our parish families to take a fresh look at the gifts they bring to the altar to help support the mission of our parish. Look for more information in the coming months and certainly call the rectory if you want to help out in any way.

Our Parish in Pictures



Middle: 2010-2011 RCIA Class
Right: Fr Sullivan and Fr. Kelly

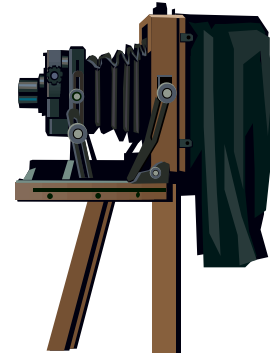


Below and Left: Fest Quest 2010

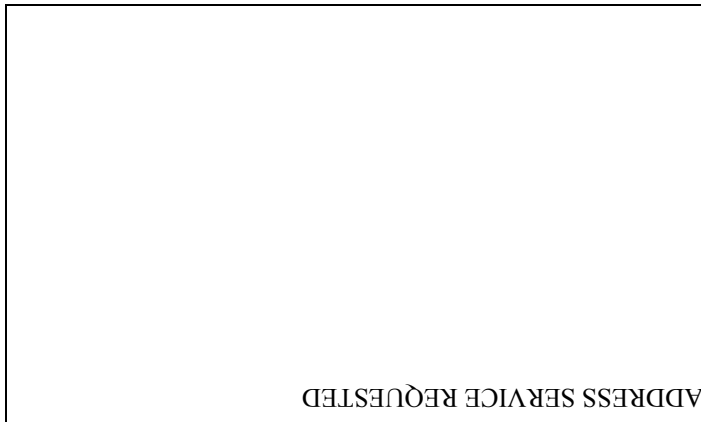


****SAVE THE DATE****

It's time again to publish another Parish Directory. Our Parish Family has changed a lot since the last directory was published in 2007. There will be a photographer at our Parish this December to take your photo, there will be more info on the dates in the coming months. This year you will be able to schedule your appointment online!



Did you forget to grab a bulletin after Mass? Visit our website to view the latest bulletin and other Parish news: www.blessedsacramentlincoln.com



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