



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thanks be to God for a season rich in blessings at St. Bernard's this past spring! The women's and men's ACTS weekends in April at Camp Loughridge saw the Holy Spirit enriching the faith of the retreatants and team members. Discipleship and evangelization -- through adoration, community, theology and service in "ACTS" -- have now touched 492 attendees in 22 retreats at St. Bernard's starting in 2011.

In addition to the April retreats, the ACTS ministry in our parish distributed 1,000 copies of "Beautiful Hope" books at the Easter Masses. We hosted a well-attended praise gathering on Pentecost Sunday. And we're rallying behind the new Poverty Simulation program, with the first workshop at St. Bernard's coming June 27. Thank you to ACTS sister Lisa Williams for getting Poverty Simulation off the ground locally on behalf of Catholic Charities.

We go forward with trust and eager anticipation as God continues to guide our path.

With prayers of gratitude,
St. Bernard's ACTS Core

Here are some recent photos from our spring highlights, including a scene from the April snowstorm that delighted the women's retreat at Camp Loughridge:





Praise on Pentecost Sunday

Thank you to everyone who joined the Tulsa ACTS Chapter Pentecost praise gathering at St. Bernard's on May 20. A crowd representing multiple parishes came together to rejoice in the Holy Spirit through reflections and song. The St. Bernard's ACTS Band led the worshipers in music that expressed exuberance and love for the Lord. The group then moved into the gym – a community of believers, as one family in Christ -- for a festive reception celebrating the birthday of the Church. Thanks again to everyone who took part in this grace-filled occasion.

Here is a short recap of the reflections* on the fruit of the Spirit:

LOVE – Out of love, we pray for our enemies. Out of love, we give beyond measure. Out of love, we serve those who can't repay us.

JOY -- Joy takes effort. Joy must be cultivated through habits and gratitude. In Jesus, we receive a joy that can withstand hardships and suffering.

PEACE -- Peace comes from choosing God as Lord. Peace flows upon us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, when mercy takes away sin. Peace results when we forgive others.

PATIENCE – Patience develops when we understand that God is in control. Patiently, we endure suffering. Patiently, we accept failures and flaws.

KINDNESS -- Kindness rejoices in other people's success. Kindness looks for the good in others and commends it. It takes courage and strength to be kind.

GENEROSITY – Acts of generosity delight the Lord, who multiplies the gifts we offer. God calls us to share abundantly even with those who might take advantage of our generosity.

FAITHFULNESS – God gave each of us time, possessions, talents and faith. He expects bold use of these gifts to produce a return for Him.

GENTLENESS -- Gentleness goes hand-in-hand with humility. Those who live in Christ find the gentleness of obeying Him. No longer resisting, they cooperate with the Spirit of God.

SELF-CONTROL -- Self-control develops as we learn to desire what God wants rather than what we want. Spiritual discipline grows with each holy choice we make.

Let us pray: Come Holy Spirit, bear fruit in us.

*Inspiration for the reflections came from "Nine Words" by Allen Hunt.

Serving in Twos

The Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." ... The seventy-two returned rejoicing.

Luke 10:1-2, 17

This past spring, the April 2018 St. Bernard's women's ACTS retreat team modeled their team service project on the "2x2" concept that Jesus laid out for the first disciples. Women on the ACTS team were assigned as partners – in some cases, not knowing one another very well yet – and instructed to go out and do good works for the Lord in our community.

The paired-up women were asked to venture into new territory by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead them together to a service project they wouldn't have attempted individually. They were also asked to come back to the big group and report what they did. What resulted from planning and executing these projects? New friendships, humbling encounters with those who suffer, and the lesson that simple acts of service can be effective.

Through their outreach to the homeless, cancer patients, a grieving family and others, the pairs of women acted with creativity, generosity and sensitivity. One group brought Holy Communion to a terminally ill woman and prayed with her. Another group set up an Amazon account to generate diaper donations for Birthright. Still other duos served meals at the Teen ACTS retreat, became sidewalk advocates at the abortion clinic, and made Lenten cards for the RCIA candidates and sponsors.

One team member told how her heart was touched by the plight of abused women who seek shelter at Domestic Violence Intervention Services. She and her partner were inspired to make their donations to DVIS attractive because they wanted the recipients to feel the love that went into their mission.



Debbie and Connie at Catholic Charities

The effect of serving in twos showed how we gain boldness, solidarity, companionship and mutual support by acting in tandem with fellow believers. It is half the work, and double the fun. Is God calling you to try a new path of service? Ask a friend to join you! Thank you to the April 2018 women's team for exemplifying discipleship in the 2x2 fashion that Jesus encouraged.

Adoration

Spending time in the company of Jesus brings stillness, rest and refreshment. What a humbling and transformative way to pray! The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the Good Shepherd Chapel at St. Bernard's every weekday from 9am-8pm (until 7pm on Fridays). Please come!



Community

A unique and hands-on program called Poverty Simulation will be presented from 6:30pm-9pm June 27 in the St. Bernard's gym.

Poverty simulation is an educational, interactive way to experience the daily struggles of living in poverty. Those who take part will learn more about Catholic Church teachings on social justice, and our call to care for the needy.

Thank you to the volunteers from our parish who went through training to help present.

As many as 88 people can participate in each simulation. To register for the June 27 workshop, call the parish office at 918-299-9406.

"We are all one family in the world. Building a community that empowers everyone to attain their full potential through each of us respecting each other's dignity, rights and responsibilities makes the world a better place to live."

St. Pope John Paul II

Theology

"The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy" – a 10-episode series, meets at 9:15am on Thursdays beginning June 7, in room G8

"Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer" – an eight-part series, meets at 6:30pm on Tuesdays beginning May 29, in room G8

Deacon Alan Mikell's bible study class – meets at 9:45am on Sundays throughout the summer, in room G8

Service

Drivers are needed to pick up Burgundy Place senior residents for the 5pm Saturday Mass. The goal is to start a schedule where each volunteer would be responsible for only one Saturday per month. Burgundy Place is located at 8887 S. Lewis Ave.

Deacon Vince Fernandez, whose home parish is St. Bernard's, will be ordained to the priesthood June 30. Hospitality helpers would be appreciated at the receptions after each Mass that weekend.

Want to help make BernardFest extra special as we celebrate the **40th anniversary** of the parish in 2018? Join the group making plans for this big occasion, starting with a meeting at 3:30pm June 5 in room E4. BernardFest, our annual parish party timed with the feast day of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, is set for Aug. 18-19.

Contacts: Linda or Charlotte in the parish office, 918-299-9406.



The ACTS Core governing group has a two-fold mission: 1) to sponsor weekend retreats and 2) to encourage continued spiritual growth, servant hearts and strong community among the people of St. Bernard's. We appreciate your prayers, feedback and suggestions!

St. Bernard's Church ACTS Core 2017-2018

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