

Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard

FIRST COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY BRINGS PARISH GROUNDS BACK TO LIFE!

Saturday, November 16th marked the parish's first *Community Service Day*. More than 40 parishioners spanning all age groups participated in four hours of faith building and "good old hard work" to clean up a large parcel of land behind the church on the parish grounds that took a direct hit from Hurricane Sandy more than a year ago. This area will be used for recreation and other parish activities.

The day was co-coordinated by Dan Konkel, Youth Ministry Director, and the Stewardship Council. The day began with all participants taking part in a Mass celebrated by Father Jay. Following Mass, hot beverages were served before everyone headed outdoors to get started on landscaping activities such clearing brush, rak-

ing, tree removal and pruning. Bill Chmielewski, Parish Maintenance Supervisor, provided direction in the field and operated a back-hoe used to help clear the land.

After approximately two hours of work on the grounds, everyone returned to the cafeteria for a well-deserved lunch.

Based on the success of the Service Day, the Stewardship Council plans to sponsor future community service events in which parishioners can help out, grow their faith and build relationships in the community.

In closing, on behalf of both Dan Konkel and the Stewardship Council, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated.



Volunteers work to clear the area behind the church.



CHRISTMAS HOPE

Christmas is the season of hope because the Bible is a book of hope. The Bible tells the heroic and thrilling story of a hope foretold in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament.

Like an arch of promise, it spanned the ages. Men of God saw a daystar in the bosom of midnight and followed it. The last book of the Old Testament closed with a faint hope that was followed by four

hundred years of tragic history.

Yet, incredibly, that mighty hope survived. The hymn-writer caught the spirit of it when he wrote of the birth of Jesus – “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.”

The world is not without hope, we just need to know where to find it.



Reprinted from *Stewardship-In-Motion*,
The Cunneen Company, December 2012

Best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas season from your Stewardship Council!

(L to R) Mark Dransfield (Chairperson), Mike Macchiarola, Russell Nesbitt, Karen Brophy, Joe Huchko, Laura Hennessey, Fran Lim, Camille Bene, Gemma Thompson, Steve Ossi and Deacon Gerry Sims

Council members missing from the photo are Vince Riello, Liz Dransfield and Martha McCray



Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?

Please contact Mark Dransfield (mlrek@optonline.net or by calling 908-526-6649)