

Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard



THEY WERE CALLED . . .

This month, St. Bernard will be celebrating its biannual Stewardship Fair, which presents an opportunity for parishioners to see the various ministries that are at work here in the parish. It is a chance for the people of St. Bernard to gain an understanding of the many ways that we can answer the call to service in God's name.

The theme of this year's fair is "We Are Called," and in keeping with this theme, SiA asked a few members of our parish ministries to share their stories about their call to service and what that service has meant to them.

Monique McKeon, Eucharistic Minister to Senior Residence Facilities

What motivated you to get involved?

I learned about it through a speaker after Mass and information I'd seen in the bulletin. At the time, I was new to the parish, and had served as a Eucharistic Minister at my previous church. This seemed like a unique and good way to extend my service, without taking a lot

of time. I shadowed another minister to the facility and observed first hand what the service was like and got to see the joy of the residents in being able to receive. I then signed up to serve myself.

What keeps you coming back?

That was about 15 years ago, and at the time my children were young, and I was working full time. This ministry has been an great opportunity for me to serve on a schedule that does not conflict with the needs of my family or my job. I minister to the senior facilities about once every 4 to 6 weeks, and the service is about 20 minutes, conducted right after the 9:00 mass. It has also been very special as I have been able to include my children in this. They have both read and sang as a part of the service and the residents have enjoyed watching them grow up. They are like family to us.

Lisa Swan, Stewardship Council

What motivated you to get involved?

The bulletin was advertising the parish picnic. I contacted Mark Dransfield from the Stewardship Council about helping out. Soon after, he emailed me asking if I'd like to get involved with the Stewardship Council. I was new to the parish and I felt this would be a wonderful way to meet more parishioners, help the parish and be a positive role model for my son.

What keeps you coming back?

The wonderful people on the council with their welcoming nature and desire to assist others. I feel I was "called" to become a part of the council and assist St. Bernard's any way possible.



wearecalled ▶
to grow to serve to reach

MORE THEY WERE CALLED . . .

Marisa Biserna, Parish Nursing Ministry

What motivated you to get involved?

As the director of a home care agency, I work closely with community outreach nurses. One of the nurses I work with mentioned a Parish Nursing program at her parish in Morristown. I thought it would be nice to give back to the parishioners at my parish by starting a Nursing Ministry as well. I wanted to give back with time not just money.

What keeps you coming back?

The group of the nurses that I work with are the best. They are so motivated and supportive. They really want to help and make a difference.

Susan Grasso, Gardening Ministry

What motivated you to get involved?

I was inspired by the beautiful grounds and planters at St. Magdalen's Church in Flemington. I moved to Flemington 7 years ago but continue to be a member of St. Bernard's parish. I would occasionally attend Mass in Flemington. I thought, how pretty and welcoming it felt with the beautiful arrangements at the church doors at St. Magdalen's. I knew our planters could look just as beautiful. I then noticed 2 contacts in their bulletin for their gardening ministry. I called a very helpful woman at St. Magdalen's and met her on the church grounds while their ministry was at work. She told

me how they got started and how their ministry grew throughout the years. I spoke to Monsignor Joe about my idea to start the ministry and he thought it had some real potential.

What keeps you coming back?

In the beginning it was just me and one other member. A few more members joined us. We started with the planters (we now have 14) and moved on to the grounds. I am so happy and proud to see all we have accomplished so far. I feel a great sense of responsibility now. I always want St. Bernard's to look and feel like we are home. It is all for the Lord and his people who gather in his house.

Allison Lim, Music Ministry

What motivated you to get involved?

I started children's choir when I was 8 yrs old and I did that up until 8th grade. It was fun because I had something to look forward to every Thursday which was our rehearsal day. Every year, it was always exciting to see new people join the choir because it was like making new friends.

What keeps you coming back?

Even though I'm 15 years old, I still sing at church as a cantor. At first, I was nervous and messed up a little bit. But I kept doing it and I improved at singing in front of people. Whether you play an instrument with the choir or are a teacher's aide in CCD, there are a lot of good ways to serve God other than just praying.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING INVOLVED IN A MINISTRY AT ST. BERNARD?

The Ministry Fair is a great opportunity to meet people in the parish's many ministries and to learn how to become involved. Ministry contact information is also available on the Stewardship Council page of the parish website.

Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?

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