

Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard



RUSS NESBITT RECEIVES 2014 CHARLIE GRILL AWARD

Earlier this fall, the Men's Ministry honored **Russell Nesbitt** as the recipient of its 19th Annual Charlie Grill Award. Russ is hard to miss at St. Bernard as he attends Mass on a regular basis and serves the parish in numerous ways. Because of his consistent willingness to offer his time, talent and treasure to the parish community, he serves as a great example of someone who lives the life asked of us by the Lord.

Russ credits his "strong foundation of faith, charity and service" to his parents, whose faith was constantly challenged by obstacles such as war and segregation. He explains that he was inspired by his parents' perseverance and trust in the Lord, something Russ remembers and carries with him to this day. Following the example of his parents, Russ believes that each of us must put trust in the Lord "no matter the path He leads us down," and maintains that we must not be afraid to take chances in the spirit of helping others, while strengthening our own relationship with the Lord.



Russ Nesbitt (center) surrounded by previous Charlie Grill Award winners: (from left: John Casey, Bernie McElroy, Leo Delaney and Bill Funkhouser)



Russ in Guatemala with sponsor family and children

Russ is currently putting this philosophy into action by serving as a ten year member of the Parish Stewardship Council, leading the "Donut Sunday" team, and working with the Guatemala Partnership. In the past, he has generously supported the Ministry Fair and the St. Bernard Annual Golf Outing, while volunteering his time and talent to countless community and Parish programs, including New Friends/ New Beginnings, the Girl Scout Council, and the Education Committee for the Adult Religious Education Program.

On behalf of the St Bernard Stewardship Council, please join us in recognizing Russ as a true disciple of Jesus Christ demonstrated in his actions and words.

WHO WAS CHARLIE GRILL?

Charlie was a life-long, dedicated parishioner of St. Bernard dating back to the original church in Raritan, NJ. Both Charlie and his wife Kitty had a love of God and neighbor. This love was expressed in their service to God, church, family, country and community. Charlie succumbed to leukemia in 1993. Following his passing, the Men's Club initiated an annual award in his honor to be given to a male parishioner who demonstrates many of the same characteristics and acts of service that Charlie did for so many years. That tradition continues today in a very vibrant way.

The nominee and recipient of the award must demonstrate the following:

- Performs service in a manner that reflects the love of Christ
- Is a member of St. Bernard Church and a regular communicant
- Performs acts of service while a member of St. Bernard Church
- Performs acts of service that include but are not limited to: ministry to the homebound, nursing and assisted living facilities, the homeless, hospitals, the poor/need, missionary work, Catholic Charities, Diocese)
- Is reliable and accountable in fulfilling service commitments

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE CHARLIE GRILL AWARD

1996—Bob McNamara
1997—Gene Quinteri
1998—Walt Steele
1999—Fr. John Brundage
2000—Art Sanford
2001—Leo Delaney
2002—Bill Coscia
2003—Brian Roe
2004—Bill Funkhouser
2005—John Mahler
2006—Ed Dobrosky
2007—Jack Hurley
2008—Ron Krilla
2009—Tom Van Horne
2010—Peter Papa
2011—Gerry Nugent
2012—Bernie McElroy
2013—John Casey

MOTIVATIONS FOR GIVING

There are many motivations to give to the Church, or tithe. Some people give out of fear, believing that God will punish them if they don't. Some give out of obligation, trained in the habits of the soul. Still others give because they have been shown mercy. Here's why several members of the Stewardship Council tithe:

Mark & Liz Dransfield: "Having been the recipient of many blessings and opportunities that St. Bernard has provided to our family for faith building, fellowship and service, we feel a strong obligation to give back to ensure the parish can continue to thrive through the Holy Spirit."

Lisa Swan: "I tithe because tithing brings me joy."

Nancy Mombay: "I provide my support in my own means to the church and my community by giving back the blessings and great health that my family and I have received. I believe that If we do good deeds to our community, sharing on our own way is the most powerful love to give. Sharing is Caring".

Karen Brophy: "The Lord has provided my family with so much; I support the parish to enable it to continue to grow and provide others with the spiritual riches and sense of community it has provided to us since we joined 18 years ago."

Fran Lim: "I tithe because I like to share to St. Bernard Catholic Church the blessings that I receive from God. I believe that when you receive the provisions and grace from God, it is your obligation and mission to spread the love by giving a part of it to your Church who, in turn, will share it to the least of our brothers and also help in the maintenance of its daily operations."

Whatever the reason for your giving, remember these words of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew, Ch. 10, verse 8: "Freely you have received, freely give."

Portions adapted from *Stewardship-In-Motion*, The Cunneen Company, October 2013

Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?

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