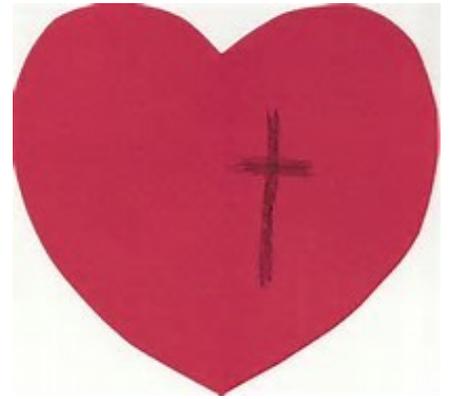


Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard



AT THE CORNER OF FAITH & LOVE

We all wish for “*A Match Made in Heaven,*” the chance to live with someone who can give us unconditional love and share the same faith and beliefs that we have. St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church has two parishioners who have found this kind of match, who have grown strongly in love with each other, while growing in their faith as well.

The fates of Anthony DeBellis and Cindy Coulbourne crossed paths when a mutual friend introduced them at a party and they immediately felt the chemistry.



Then, from Facebook, to texting, to shopping, to movies, to endless conversations about their spirituality, their relationship grew until finally the proverbial Cupid shot his arrow into the hearts of the couple, forming a match truly “made in heaven.”

Today, living out their faith, Cindy and Anthony have become active stewards at St. Bernard Church. They are currently involved as music ministers and facilitators of the ongoing Christ Life Series being held every Tuesday night in St. Bernard’s Parish Center. They have combined their talents to serve -- Anthony being a gifted guitarist and musician and Cindy, a soulful singer. With their beautiful voices blended together, they sing praises to the Lord with the program’s participants, who have been lifted up because of the vibrancy and joy that their music brings.

“Our involvement with music, especially in the Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and Sharing Christ series, brought us even closer as we share our faith together with our fellow parishioners,” An-

thony explains. In addition to bringing their talents to the Christ Life Series, Cindy also serves as a lector, a ministry to which she felt called after she was confirmed during the Easter Vigil in 2012.

As for their journey in faith and love, Anthony shares that for their first date, they went out to the movies, and for their second date, he invited Cindy to attend Mass in his parish church. He was astonished to hear from Cindy that she had long been wanting to come back to church. Their eventual walk down the aisle, with their hands held together, was a memory to cherish, Anthony says.

Anthony was born and raised as a devout Catholic and Cindy as an Episcopalian. Their emotional and spiritual relationship grew as they shared their faith and prayed together. After a time, Cindy made the decision to begin the RCIA program in Anthony’s parish and he stood as her sponsor. The entire process became the strong foundation of who they are now – blessed and strengthened by God. The experience of becoming a Catholic was life changing



AT THE CORNER OF FAITH & LOVE (CONTINUED)

they are now – blessed and strengthened by God. The experience of becoming a Catholic was life-changing to Cindy. Anthony was also grateful that he was there during Cindy's faith conversion, as he was able to experience the sacraments and appreciated them deeply.

Cindy says she has God as her compass as she has sailed through the rough waters of life and Anthony attests to having his share of family struggles too. But that does not deter him from expressing and sharing his life story with anyone; he is an avid narrator of his faith in God, describing himself with the acronyms "CIA" (Christ In Action) and "FBI" (Faith Based Individual). Throughout Cindy's conversion, Anthony became her support system and together they have been witnesses of their faith to other people.

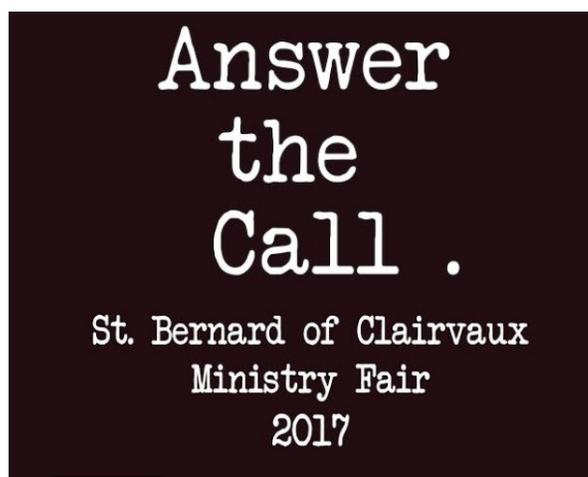
As destiny would dictate, the couple's children became instant friends. Cindy's two children saw Anthony as a father figure from day one and they respect and love him, treating him as their own father. Cindy is also close to Anthony's five children. With all seven children being close in age, they treat each other as real siblings, serving as the knot that ties the family together.

On February 12, Anthony and Cindy celebrated their 6th anniversary of being together. As we celebrate St. Valentine's day, Anthony and Cindy remind us of their favorite bible passage from Psalm 37-4, "***Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of the heart.***"

MINISTRY FAIR COMING SOON!

The bi-annual St. Bernard Ministry Fair will be held after all Masses on March 4th and 5th. This event provides an opportunity for parishioners to meet with members of various parish ministries to make connections and encourage stewardship in our parish.

Look for more details in the bulletin and plan to stop by after Mass that weekend to learn more about how you can **Answer the Call**.



Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?

Please contact Mark Dransfield (dransfam@gmail.com or by calling 908-526-6649)

