



Volume 2, Issue 3
Summer Issue 2003

ALUMNI

...for generations to come...

The Tiger's Roar

The Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of Saint Bernard's Parish and School

From the Principal: Mrs. Ellie Seward

In reviewing my last article, it seemed we were overwhelmed with activity during the Winter months. However, in scanning the Spring calendar, there was no idle time at St. Bernard Catholic School.

A group of Future Teachers of America from Roncalli Catholic High School came into our classrooms to test their teaching skills by reading stories to the children and doing a related activity. Twelve of our faculty members attended the NCEA Convention in St. Louis (thanks to Home and School) to sharpen their teaching skills and to become reenergized for another year. All returned safely bearing numerous ideas, samples, and plans for the next school year. Mrs. Adkins was the lucky winner in a drawing for a "Retreat in a Box" for 8th grade students.

Visitors to our school included animals from the Tangier Circus. They were brought into the gym and the students were allowed to get a close-up look. Music in Catholic Schools has an Honor Band, and they too put on a concert for our students. Mrs. Molacek purchased two performances at an auction that brought the swing group and jazz band from Northwest High School for assemblies.

The Middle School became involved in a series of events called the Olympics at St. Bernard's. The three classes are divided into four teams, and they competed in numerous areas from cake baking to Jello eating to chin-ups and basketball hotshots. The teachers facilitated these activities and everyone had a lot of fun. The 8th grade capped off its final week with a play. This year they presented "Murder at the Goon Show." It was hilarious and individual performances were fantastic. Students and parents alike were well enter-

tained.

The Athletic Banquet was another April highlight. Besides a wonderful banquet and team presentations, the Athletic Club presented four scholarships to students attending a Catholic high school. This year's recipients were Ross Ossino, Cortney Griffith, Matt Sharp and Arielle Snyder. The Downtown Rotary Club also awards two 8th grade students with a luncheon. This year, Shane Hanson and Cortney Griffith received this honor. The goal is to return as a senior winning a college scholarship. Hundreds of Omaha students and parents were present.

First Communion was the 2nd grade highlight of the year. This occurred on Mother's Day, and at the following school Mass, the students were honored wearing their First Communion apparel. Their sacramental gifts were blessed by Fr. Lewis on this occasion. This same day, Our Blessed Mother was crowned at the outside altar by the Rotary Club honorees. Fr. Lewis officiated and the children bid him farewell at this time with some traveling \$\$\$. Fr. Lewis was greatly appreciated at St. Bernard's.

Graduation events dominated the remainder of the month of May. The traditional 8th grade brunch was held the morning of May 17. More scholarships and awards were given, and Mrs. Regan received special recognition for her service here. The Daniel and Patricia Chess scholarships went to David Pontier and Jenna Peyton. Matt Sharp earned the Monsignor Edward McCaslin Scholarship, and Brian Felderman and Shane Hanson were awarded the Home and School scholarships. Earlier in the year, other high school scholarships were presented to Brian Felderman from Prep, Shane Hanson from Mt. Michael, Cortney Griffith and Megan Finn from Roncalli. Of the 30 graduates, 24 are enrolled in

Catholic High Schools. We are so proud of these young students!

The final activity (after school closed) was a trip to Washington, D.C. by twenty-eight 7th and 8th graders along with three teachers and many parents. This trip occurs every other year and is an excellent opportunity for the students to experience firsthand what they have studied in social studies, history and science. They even are given the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Thanks to everyone who made this trip possible.

In closing, I would like to thank EVERYONE who took part in planning and orchestrating this year's Carnival. Despite the threat of a tornado, attendance was excellent, the food was great and a good time was had by all. Hopefully the volunteers felt rewarded with the turnout and the profits.

To date, I have now experienced a year of events at St. Bernard. I can no longer plead ignorant to what needs to go on. I have thoroughly enjoyed being here and I appreciate all the support and prayers given by Fr. Spenner and Fr. Lewis, the faculty and staff of St. Bernard and all the students and their parents. The year has been very rewarding, and I must comment again, that anyone NOT sending their children to this wonderful school is missing an OUTSTANDING opportunity. I have been in eight other school systems, and none can compare to St. Bernard. The hard work and dedication here are unmatched. Thank God for it all!!

Blessings,

Ellie Seward, Principal

Meet our newest alumni!

The St. Bernard's Class of 2003 graduated on May 21. They join a long line of graduates from here, and are now part of the rich tradition of educational excellence that is St. Bernard's. We congratulate them and welcome them to the ranks of our alumni.

Andrew Thomas Andrew Cosentino
Melissa Nicole Lucy Edwards
Brian Patrick Cosmas Felderman
Megan Jo Gemma Finn
Jessica Ann Clare Freeman
Cortney Elizabeth Therese Griffith
Mathias Alan Hake
Shane Joseph Michael Hanson
Joshua Vincent Matthew Herber
Mark Anthony Klabunde
Joseph Daniel Laughlin
Monica Anne Light
Terresa Mary Marquiss
Kyle Stephan Joseph McNamara
Anne Marie Elizabeth Mori
Benjamin Hallet Nicholas Mueting
Kelsey Lee Nagel
John Francis James Ocken
Ross Michael Joseph Ossino
Jordan Thomas Michael Parish
Jenna Leigh Rose Peyton
David Michael George Pontier
Lindsey Marie Dorothy Ridley
Emma Lee Dymphna Schnirl
Matt Gerald Sharp
Kyle Joseph Jude Simon
Arielle Eva Snyder
Catlin Colleen Rose Stewart
Megan Elizabeth VanSant
Michael Thomas Bernard Winkler

We hope to see you at our alumni reunions. You are always welcome here at St. Bernard's and you hold a special place in our hearts.

Dinner Auction 2003—Around the World!

Plans are underway for the Dinner Auction Parish fundraiser set for **September 27th**. A trip "Around the World" will begin with dinner and drinks. The silent and oral auctions will offer a multitude of items such as a day-long fishing excursion at Linoma, a tea party for 12, and a basketball autographed by Bobby Knight—we'll even throw in a chair! Tickets are \$40 each and corporate sponsored tables are available for \$320. A sneak peek of the auction items is available at the website: <http://stbauction.tripod.com>. Check it out and then get tickets for your trip "Around the World" at the St. Bernard's Dinner Auction, Saturday, September 27! Call the development office (561-6826) for tickets. This is a trip around the world that you won't want to miss!

From the Pastor: Fr. Spenner

Who is the "Tiger", and what is its "Roar"? I believe the tiger's roar is the sound we hear in the hallways, in the classrooms, in the Roxy Lewis Gymnasium, on the parking lots and playgrounds, during the school year. It is the silence during prayer and during Eucharist. I believe the "Tiger" are the students, the child care participants, the teachers, the coaches, the clubs and committees, and all the people involved in the "roar". When the tiger is roaring, it is obvious something is happening. People are growing. They are learning. They are loving one another as their God loves them.

Most of the roaring happens within the rooms and halls of St. Bernard's School, Roxy Lewis Gymnasium, St.

Bernard's child care, St. Bernard's Church and the playgrounds and parking lots. More will happen when the latest small child playground is finished (new posts went up June 6th).

Most of the roaring is difficult to hear at the present time. Most of the buildings are empty. It is summertime and the tiger has gone elsewhere to roar. I hope the roar of the tiger is as non-threatening and gentle during the summer in all the neighborhoods and vacation spots as it has been during the school year.

Fr. Jerome Spenner, Pastor

From the Development Director: Beth Klug

Spring turns in to summer so quickly around here. One minute we are worried about ice on the steps outside, then we are caught in a torrential spring down pour, and suddenly, we wonder when the window air conditioners will be installed, and whether or not the fuses will blow if we use the computer printers while the A/C is running.

We seem to get so busy with everything we do that we sometimes miss the changes happening, until we notice them after the fact. The reality is that summer has not only slid upon us, but it has wrapped us in a balmy and sultry cocoon. The arrival of summer was inevitable. Nothing waits around here!

It seems that the development committee was just working on last fall's dinner auction, when it was suddenly time to get the carnival underway. Reserve the rides and games, get the kitchen volunteers, line up cakes for the bake sale, make sure someone will put up a tent out back and man the grill. And then, lo and behold, the day arrives and carnival "happens"!

It must be the tradition of loyal and time-tested volunteers that allows for the success of this carnival. Come rain or shine, the carnival goes on in style. And it was another successful year for the carnival. At times like this, I like to think that a little St. Bernard's magic takes over and we are off and running.

I have noticed that magic around here.

Okay, maybe it's not magic, maybe it's the Holy Spirit. My point is, something is definitely going on here. I felt it from the minute I walked into this place two and a half years ago. It is not something that is taught. It is caught. Everything can change, and time can fly by, but that St. Bernard's magic is here no matter what.

Summer slinks around us slowly, but have no doubt, autumn will arrive on time. I see teachers pop in here once in awhile these days, getting ready. The calendar keeps rolling toward back-to-school time. Such anticipation! When my father was young, he had an older neighbor who had a unique expression about how things change and how fast time flies. She said, "Honey, when you get to be my age, every other day is Christmas". Time does slip away whether we are watching or not.

So enjoy these last balmy six weeks of summer. In another six months we will all worry about ice on the steps again. For right now, just don't forget your sunscreen. And remember a little of summer from when you were growing up—if your heart is the same, then not too much has changed.

Go well, have fun, smile a lot, spread love around and tell people how important they are. As always, thanks for reading and stay safe.

Alumni Profile: The Schenkelberg Family

I have the great privilege of introducing a St. Bernard's family who truly understood the importance of the commitment to Catholic education. The Schenkelberg family think of St. Bernard's as their home. Barb and Gil, moved into St. Bernard's parish in 1967. Within walking distance of the school, they put a child in almost every grade of the school, like stair steps.

Gil is now retired. He was a fire-fighter with the Omaha Fire Department and had several other moonlighting jobs. Barb stayed at home with the kids. With a new addition to the family almost every year, her's was more than a full-time job.

Barb reminisced about their first Christmas at St. Bernard's. New to the parish, someone from the church called to ask them if they would carry up the offertory gifts at the Christmas midnight Mass. Julie, only about 1-1/2 years old carried the Baby Jesus up to the Manger. They were so worried she wouldn't make it as she toddled up the center aisle, cradling the Baby Jesus in her little arms, such a baby herself. But Jesus made it safely from Julie's arms to the Manger, and another memory was sealed in Barb and Gil's minds and hearts. How did they take care of all those kids? Well apparently, those big families are not for the faint of heart! Here we go...

The oldest in the family is Jim, class of 1968. Jim started school at St. B's in the middle of his 8th grade year. It was a traumatic change for him and a critical point in a kid's life. He remembered, "the teachers were very kind and understanding of the situation." He is aware of the trickle down effect from his parents to keep children in a Catholic school. "The teachers/student relationships are better and the faith basis is so important." Jim originally started college work toward a Fine Arts Degree, and then followed in his Father's footsteps. He is a Fire Captain and paramedic with 25 years with the Omaha Fire Department. Jim and his wife Gayle have three children. Amanda age 22, Carl age 18, and Gabrielle age 9. Jim and Gayle have one grandson and

another grandchild on the way.

Next is Barb Calabretto, class of 1969. She started school in the middle of 7th grade and her best friends were Rosie Chilesi and Renetta Fric. "I remember it was important to my parents that we went to a Catholic school," said Barb. She remembers Fr. Schwertley and the carnivals. Barb is the owner of the hair salon, Shear Madness, here in Omaha. Barb and her husband Mike have three children: Gabe age 24, Jesse age 22, and Sam 20.

Next was their son Mike. He died in a tragic car accident in 1975. Barb and Gil and their children spoke of their circle of friends at church and with the Fire Department. "That circle of friends held us up back then," said Barb, "and they still do!"

Mary Mollner, class of 1971 remembers taking guitar lessons from Sr. Claudette. Mary played guitar at St. Bernard's Masses for 22 years, even driving from Waterloo back to Omaha to keep that commitment. "We all wanted to go to a Catholic school, the upbringing and the influence was so strong." Mary works for M.U.D. in Building and Contracting Services. She and her husband Jim have two children: Jenny age 23 and Jeff age 20. Mary also has 3 step children, Kim age 33, Barb age 30, and Amy age 27. Mary and Jim have seven grandchildren.

Next in Line is Joe, class of 1973. He said that everyone walked to school back then. Joe remembers playing hockey in gym class. "One time I went after Bob Recic with the hockey stick because I got tired of him checking us so close. The gym teacher, Tom Jaworski, picked me up and dropped me, not very gently I might add, into the bleachers to break up the fight." Joe is an accident investigator with the Omaha Police Department. Joe has two daughters: Brandi age 20 and Katie age 13. Newly wed to Carri in May of this year, Joe is also step father to Jamie age 9.

Mark, class of 1974, is next. Mark remembers the strict nuns and intramural basketball. He knew that a Catholic education was a big commitment for his parents but they really believed in it. It had a trickle down effect. He has been motivated to keep his own children in

in Catholic schools. Mark is a Lieutenant with the Omaha Police Department and has 19 years on the force. Mark and his wife Michele have four children: Adam age 17, Jake age 16, Mike age 13, and T.J. age 11. "In a big family, the odds are against you. Growing up, a Catholic education helped to keep us more focused," said Mark.

Next is Cathy, class of 1976. Cathy and her daughter, Fiona, age 8, make their home in Studio City, CA. She is an actress and a singer and has met with success in the business. "I haven't had to wait tables for 17 years," she quipped. She was a clown on the Bozo show for 3 years and has done solo one-woman shows in LA and Chicago. Cathy knew the commitment her parents were making to a Catholic education for the family. She remarked about how kind everyone at St. B's was when her brother Mike died. "And we always knew that our brothers and sisters were our best friends," said Cathy. "They still are!" Tom, class of 1978, is number eight in the family. Tom remembers the names of all of his grade school teachers, especially Mrs. Thomas, who had an outlook that made him want to keep going to school and keep learning. When he was an altar boy, Msgr. McCaslin taught him so much about respect for the church. "I was in 5th or 6th grade when it really dawned on me, the sacrifice my parents made to keep us in catholic school," he said. Tom works as a regional manager at FBG Service Corporation. He and his wife Carole have 3 children: Michaela age 14, Laura age 11, and S c o t t a g e 8 . Julie Myers, class of 1980, is next. She has been a hairdresser at Shear Madness for 18 years. She remembers that she had all the same friends from 1st through 8th grade. "It was like a big family." She recalled helping with the youth group in Jr. High with Fr. Wayne Pavela. "With Catholic schools you know your kids' friends and their families and they are all raised with the same values. It makes a difference." Julie and her husband have 2 children: Ben age 8 and Caleb age 3. Julie's step daughter Tiffany is 20.

(continued page 5, column 3)

Teacher Profiles: Marcia Regan

My name is Marcia Leahy Regan, and I am the youngest of seven children (4 boys and 3 girls) of the late Jim and Kay Leahy. My parents worked very hard to ensure a Catholic education for all 7 of us, and teaching in the Catholic schools is my way of saying thank you for all that my parents gave to us by providing such a strong foundation for us. Teaching must be in our blood. My dad taught at the UNMC after he retired from private practice, my oldest sister spent time as a speech/language therapist before becoming a stay at home mom, and one of my brothers taught at South Plains College before retiring a few years ago. I graduated from St. Pius X/St. Leo, from Marian High School and from Hastings College. I have been teaching since the fall of 1988.

I have been married for 14 years to Michael Regan. We have one son, Christian, who will be a 7th grader at St. Bernard's in the fall.

I have two bachelor's degrees: bachelor of arts in English education and a bachelor of music in instrumental music education.

I came to St. Bernard's after 4 years of teaching, and stayed because this is a wonderful place. The staff is like no other I have ever worked with. Everyone works together to ensure the best possible education for each of our students. The staff is like a family, sharing, learning and growing together. Everyone here is so loving and talented that the other teachers push you to be your best, and are there to support you when times are hard. I have friends in a lot of other Catholic schools, and none of them have the sense of community that we have here.

I have always had an 8th grade homeroom here, and have always taught 7th and 8th grade English and 8th grade literature. I have also taught 5th, 6th and 8th grade religion, 7th grade literature and 6th grade English.

One of my favorite things to do is make music. I play flute, clarinet and oboe regularly, and enjoy all kinds of music though classical is definitely my favorite. I play at church as my schedule allows and for weddings. I also enjoy just playing duets with my son Christian who plays the saxophone.

I also love reading (good thing for an English teacher). I am partial to historical fiction and the classics. Jane Eyre is my all time favorite book and gets read at least once a year. I also spend a lot of time reading young adult literature. My favorite young adult novel is A Begonia for Miss Applebaum by Paul Zindel. I love teddy bears and have more than 100 in my classroom alone! If the teddy bear is pink-so much the better.

Next year will be my 12th year at St. Bernard, which is hard for me to believe. It seems like I started only yesterday. Each day I thank God for bringing me to St. Bernard's.

Thanks Be to God by Fr. Ryan Lewis

I felt a special kinship with this year's eighth graders at our parish school. When I started teaching them, they were excitable and inquisitive sixth graders. We covered a great deal of ground in three years. Their questions in class left no stone unturned. They, like their teacher, did not have all the answers, but we were plenty full of enthusiasm for the search. They have matured and grown and we can all be proud of them as they graduate and head for high school. Their graduation on May 21 marked

the completion of their time at St. Bernard's School, and my own as well. Like the eighth graders, I also was completing my time with this great community. It was for me, and for them as well, a time of mixed emotions. There is sadness in leaving, saying goodbye, and moving on. There is tremendous gratitude to God for the many blessings received here. And there is excitement for the future and the possibilities that it holds, knowing, loving and serving our Lord. The eighth graders will tell you that I'm a broken record. My constant re-

frain to them is "Say your prayers, stay close to the Church, and treat everyone as you would like them to treat you." As I leave, with a grateful heart, I will remember my own advice and give thanks to God for you always. May God continue to bless St. Bernard's Parish and School!

(Fr. Lewis is in Washington, D. C., completing studies in Canon Law.)

Only in a Catholic School

(This was written by Donna Molacek, a first grade teacher at St. Bernard's.)

When you teach, there are many jobs you do each day that are not part of regular teaching. By regular teaching, I mean the kind of teaching that takes place in the formal classroom. As a teacher you teach in the hallway, in the lunchroom, and on the play ground. We teachers call these teaching opportunities "extra duties". But they are in fact teaching and learning experiences, for both the students in our charge and for us. It was an "extra duty" teaching experience that taught me how much our children do in fact internalize the religion and the faith that we teach and share every day.

This past spring, just before Easter, I was supervising the primary (grades kindergarten - 2nd) playground just after lunch. It was a beautiful day and the children were having a good time on the equipment. They were playing soccer in the field and running around on the blacktop. Everyone was doing something and no one was complaining. My attention was drawn to a group of the older children who were gathered just out of my range of hearing.

The group was sitting around one young boy who stood in the middle of the group. He was talking when all of a sudden, two other rough boys came and pulled him out of the group. They pushed, shoved and dragged him over to another boy. They made the first boy stand before the second boy while he scolded the first boy. I watched and moved a little closer to the group. As I moved in, the second boy turned his back to the first boy, and the two who had been doing the pushing and shoving dragged him away. While this was going on the larger group was standing around and watching.

The pushing and the shoving was now becoming a concern so I spoke with one

of the boys who was doing the pushing and shoving and asked him what was going on. He answered that they were playing "Jesus." I reminded them of the playground rules and about keeping your hands to yourself. He said that he would remember and would remind the others in the group.

As I stood there and watched, the rough boys placed an imaginary cross on the shoulder of the young man who was Jesus. The boy struggled, but stood up and walked. The rough boys pretended to hit him with whips and sticks. When he fell, they pushed and pulled him to his feet. The young "Jesus" continued his walk across the playground, and then he fell again. This time the rough boys pulled another boy in and shoved the imaginary cross on his shoulder.

When the young "Jesus" had the cross again, a young lady came out of the group that was following, and wiped his face with her school sweatshirt. The group continued across the playground and the young ladies were crying. The boy "Jesus" told them to stop crying and to pray for themselves. Not wanting to interfere with their story, I stayed back, but I kept a close watch on the events, as the young Jesus continued with his "cross".

The long walk ended just in front of the library windows. There, the rough boys took the cross from the boy "Jesus." They laid him down and crossed his feet. They used all of their might to pound the long nails in, and wrapped his arms with imaginary ropes to hold him in place. Then they raised the cross and dropped it into the stabilizing hole, to hold it up. The body of the boy "Jesus" showed the pain and humiliation that our Lord must have felt when the cross was dropped into that hole. The young Jesus was true to his part.

The rough boys tied two others to crosses and placed them on either side of the boy "Jesus." Suddenly, a shoving match

started between the two rough boys. I was just ready to break it up when I realized they were fighting over the clothes that belonged to "Jesus". Before I needed to interfere the rough boys had stopped the fighting and were taking the boy "Jesus" down from the imaginary cross. They placed the boy "Jesus" in the lap of a young lady.

The rough boys were now gone and all that remained was the large group. They gently picked up the boy "Jesus" and carried him over to a concrete slab in a shaded part of the playground. I realized then that these young children were placing "Jesus" in the tomb.

I thought that they were done because they all left the area and the young boy "Jesus" got up and ran away around the corner of the building. Then out of the corner of my eye I saw the young ladies coming back to the shaded area. They were searching for something. Then from around the corner of the building, the boy "Jesus" came with his arms out stretched. The young ladies ran to him but he put up his hands in a signal for them to stop. The young ladies fell at his feet. Then they stood up and ran back to the larger group.

These young children had really internalized the Stations of the Cross that they had been studying during lent. By the expressions on their faces and the attention to the detail of their play I knew they had come to an understanding of the tragedy, humiliation and pain that our Lord suffered for us when he died on the cross. No quiz or test could have given this teacher any more information about what these students had learned from their religious teachings. As teachers we often wonder if we are getting through to our students. On this day I discovered that sometimes to evaluate what a child has learned, you just need to watch them play.

Fr. Hoelsing, New Assistant Pastor at St. Bernard's—Just Back from Rome

Born February 1, 1976, I am the oldest of three boys: My brother Matthew, age 24, was just married last fall. He and his wife Lacey live in Norfolk and theirs was the first wedding I celebrated. Younger brother, Jonathan, age 16, is a junior at my alma mater, Hartington Cedar Catholic High School. My parents are Duane and Judy Hoelsing, and they continue to tend the homestead farms that have been in my father's family since the late 1800's. Our home parish is St. Boniface in Menominee.

I grew up on these farms near Menominee, Nebraska. My brothers and I attended the rural, Catholic grade schools in Fordyce and Menominee. I played baseball in the summer, basketball in the winter and became involved in speech, drama and FFA during high school. After graduation I attended Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa as a pre-medicine major. Two years later, in order to begin formation for the priesthood, I transferred to St. Thomas University in St.

Paul, Minnesota. The college seminary on the university's campus is known as St. John Vianney Seminary.

Upon completion of college seminary studies, Archbishop Curtiss assigned me to theological studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. From September 1998 until June 2003 I lived at the College and I was enrolled at the Pontifical Gregorian University. There I obtained the Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology and the Licentiate in Dogmatic Theology.

On the first of June 2002 Archbishop Elden Curtiss ordained me a priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha at St. Cecilia Cathedral. Having completed my studies in Rome, I now begin my assignment at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Together with Father Jerome Spenner, the pastor who baptized me twenty-seven years ago in Fordyce, I am the assistant pastor at the parish and the chaplain for Roncalli Catholic High School.

Fr. Paul Hoelsing

Who's who on Staff

Pastor: Fr. Jerome Spenner
 Asst. Pastor: Fr. Paul Hoelsing
 Seminarian: Michael Swanton
 Principal: Mrs. Ellie Seward
 Administrative Assistant:
 Mrs. Jody Mangiameli
 School Secretary:
 Mrs. Pat Mueting
 Director of Religious Formation:
 Mrs. JoAnne Raleigh
 Cafeteria Manager:
 Netty Peters
 Parish Bookkeeper:
 Mrs. Sharon Perrigo
 Parish Secretary:
 Mrs. Mary Ann Peter
 Liturgist: Mrs. Pat Malcolm
 Pastoral Minister: Sr. Susan Ivis
 Child Care Director:
 Mrs. Diane Frizzell
 Custodian: Terry Dickey
 Development Director:
 Ms. Beth Klug

May 2003 Carnival—Rain or Shine, It's A Great Party!

Sunday, May 4 dawned with a gray sky and rain. That did not keep countless volunteers from setting up for the carnival. The carnival goes on, rain or shine. Rides outside, games in the gym, and food, food, and more food downstairs in the cafeteria. What's a little rain when you have hundreds of people showing up for fun?

Carnival goers swarmed into the gym as soon as the doors opened. The games in the gym were as entertaining as ever. The coin toss, run by the Lamoureux and Nalty families, is always a hit—just be prepared to hand over all your pocket change in exchange for some glass trinkets!

We had the makings for a pretty good storm. The rides outside in the parking lot never really had much of a chance, as raindrops steadily doused the potential riders. The athletic club had made plans for a basketball booth with three-pointers and free-throw competition. It looked like the rain might cancel that outdoor event. However, with a little creative ingenuity, and the understanding that necessity is the mother of all invention, space was found in the gym to set up for the basketball booth, and it enjoyed steady business. As the rain picked up in intensity, the carnival kept on rolling.

It was just after 2 p.m. when we first heard them through the open doors.

Tornado sirens! A quick peek outside showed those black clouds that every mid-west native is familiar with. Tornado clouds! What to do, what to do! In all the years of the carnival, we had never had this strong of a storm. Our off duty police officer/security guard said we had to get people out of the gym and downstairs, so we did just that.

The volunteers downstairs in the cafeteria will tell you that a mass of humanity descended upon them. Suddenly, hundreds of people filled the cafeteria. They wanted to eat and they wanted to drink!

So, we fed 'em all! The kitchen sold all the food they had and the bar sold all the beer. And everyone stayed happy! (It was like the parable of the loaves and the fish.)

One senior parishioner told me that if she had been at home, she never would have gone to her basement during the storm because she didn't like it. She said she was happy to be at St. Bernard's because she felt safe and she knew she was with friends as everyone gathered in the basement. If people find shelter with their church in more ways than one, we must be on the right track. A stormy day in May proved to be a good day for the carnival!

The Schenkelberg family—continued

Ben, class of 1983 is the youngest. He remembers walking to school with all the neighbor kids and standing outside of school before first grade, nervous about his first day. He played intramural basketball and soccer. He remembers a few teachers: Mrs. Peyton, Mrs. Ascheral and Mr. Olsen. He also spoke of the outpouring of kindness when his brother died. "I remember all the kids in my class wrote notes to me. I am sure the teachers made them do it, but it was nice." Ben is a meter technician for O.P.P.D. and his children are Mitchell age 7 and Trey age 2. Ben said, "I find it unbelievable that my parents made the sacrifice to send all of us kids to a Catholic School. My parents are two awesome people!"

Barb recalled the volunteer activities they were involved with. "We had a big senior group with Sr. Josetta and Sr. Tarsisius. That group did a lot of things and we visited so many people" she said. Barb also volunteered at the rectory for half days, was in the altar guild and now she helps with the funeral luncheons. "There was always something to do, either with my own kids or up at the church. It was easy to help out."

You get the feeling that they would invite anyone into their kitchen for coffee. Barb said, "I just like people and being around them. I can't understand why people just don't get along."

You can skip all the jokes about big families being "good Catholic families." This really is one of those good families. They may have faced many challenges raising this big family. However, when Barb and Gil Schenkelberg speak about their children, their smiles are bright, their eyes sparkle, and their laughter is warm.

The kids routinely stop by during the day to see their parents. Joe and Mary both dropped in while I was at Barb and Gil's place. "Our kids are our investments. We get good returns," said Barb with a radiant smile.

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Check out the Dinner/Auction website at
Http://stbauction.tripod.com

Save these dates!

Dinner-Auction – September 27th

Nativity Display– November 29-30

We are looking for Saint Bernard's alumni. Who do you know? How can we get in touch with them? Please call the St. Bernard's development office 402-561-6826 and let us know. You can also reach us by email at: bklug@marian.creighton.edu

Would you like to help with organizing the alumni files? We are searching for volunteers who remember the names of students. If you can help, or if you have new ideas, give us a call.

If you are a parent of an alumni and your child no longer lives at your address, please let us know their current address. It will help keep our files updated.

Keep us updated! Complete this form and mail to:

**St. Bernard's Grade School
Alumni & Development Office
3604 North 65th Street
Omaha, NE 68104**

Call us with any questions! 402-561-6826 or email: bklug@marian.creighton.edu

Full Name _____ **Maiden** _____

Address _____

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Employer _____

Job Title _____ **Work Phone** _____

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