

† St. Bernard's Parish  
3605 North 65th St.  
Omaha, NE 68104



Volume 3, Issue 3  
Summer 2004

# 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

Dear St. Bernard Alumni,  
As I open this letter, I realize that twenty-five more alumni have been added to an already enormous list of graduates. I am hoping the latest class will enjoy reading "their" news and that they will return frequently to St. Bernard Catholic School to keep us up to date with their high school ventures and successes. I am happy to report that over 80% of our graduates are enrolled in Catholic high schools. This is a wonderful indication of the importance they and their parents place in continuing their Catholic education and the value given to the interminable quest for a greater spiritual knowledge as well as highly challenging academics. God be with each one of them as they embark on a wonderful new experience!  
"To learn and grow as the Body of Christ in all we say and do." This is the new mission statement for St. Bernard Catholic School. The Catholic School Office administrators and a committee of principals have been working for over a year to establish a continuous improvement plan that would be implemented in all Catholic schools in this Archdiocese. They worked with the Department of Education at the State of Nebraska and put together a plan that is specific to Catholic schools. Writing a mission statement is the first step in this process. The teachers at St. Bernard first worked at writing their own personal mission statements, which in turn, expedited their writing of a school mission statement. Brevity is key, and I think we

accomplished that.  
The second part of the process involves choosing a Student Improvement Goal. At St. Bernard, we will be addressing the improvement in writing skills for every student over the next couple years. Several years ago, a writing program called 6 Traits was begun here, so I feel we have a jump-start in reaching this improvement goal. It is especially motivating that all our schools will be working toward their own particular goal using the same format and the same time-line. As a system, much more can be accomplished.  
Our school year ended on many high notes. Scholarships were earned to each of the local Catholic high schools; Home and School awarded two large scholarship to eighth grade students who were interviewed and judged accordingly; John Chess again funded two large scholarships in memory of his family; the Athletic Club gave four scholarships at their banquet; and the Monsignor McCaslin Scholarship was awarded. Two Rotary designees attended the spring luncheon and they also led the May Crowning ceremonies. Our "Teacher Choir" provided the music for Graduation Mass, and all summer birthdays were honored at our final school Mass the last day school. Each level enjoyed their annual field days, and many field trips were scheduled for the last month of the year. Hopefully the teachers are enjoying their summer schedule. Some have been attending staff development workshops; some have become involved in summer jobs, and

several are relaxing at home. God knew what he was doing when he created summer. Enrollment has stabilized, and we continue to benefit greatly from the Children's Scholarship Fund. Our Pre-kindergarten has increased, and we are anticipating the formation of a morning AND afternoon session. This is particularly helpful in sustaining our Kindergarten enrollment. Having the St. Bernard's child care available also greatly attracts parents who need extended care for their children. Classroom carpets have been shampooed and the offices got a deep cleaning. Minor painting and electrical projects head the list of summer upkeep. Updating to meet fire code requires sprinklers in the janitor's closets, so that also will be done. Almost daily the UPS truck arrives with supplies for next year. Each activity heightens our enthusiasm for the beginning of a new school year. One teacher said that just seeing the new calendar is an inspiration. Hopefully that is true of everyone. Enjoy the fine weather we have been experiencing this summer. Until fall, may God shelter you with many blessings. Stay safe!  
Sincerely,  
Ellie Seward, Principal

## **From the Pastor: Fr. Spenner**

Since I last wrote to you in The Tiger's Roar, another group of graduates have joined your wonderful group called: "alumni" of St. Bernard's School. Most of you probably don't know them and they probably don't know most of you, yet you belong to the same group of "alumni".

Most of us in the Church don't know each other. We belong to different families, to different parishes; we live in different states and different countries, yet we all belong to the same Lord Jesus Christ, and to the same Family, His Church.

I recall Jesus' question to His disciples in the Gospel for the 12th Sunday in

ordinary Time: "who do you say that I am?" We all have something, (rather, Someone) in common: we know Jesus Christ and we are one in Him and with Him. We all eat and drink the same Body and Blood of the same Lord. And, whether we like it or not, we can't know Jesus without knowing and loving each other. We share a common bond, and so we are responsible for each other.

Whether we like it or not, all who are alumni of St. Bernard's will forever be alumni of St. Bernard's. We cannot go back and change the school of our education and upbringing. We live what we learned, and we share the gift of faith

with future alumni, giving life to a growing family. Today we experience the faith sharing of people two and three thousand years ago. People two and three thousand years from now will be different because of the alumni of St. Bernard's School! That ought to give us something for which to thank God the next time we gather for Eucharist with His Church. Our family is enormous!

Fr. Jerome Spenner

## **From the Development Director: Beth Klug**

Summer greetings to all alumni!

It is quiet around here. The gym floor has been refinished and the entire building is being thoroughly cleaned. It's our version of spring-cleaning, but it happens in the heat of the summer. And the only reason it happens is because our maintenance engineer, Terry Dickey, is relentless about getting this place ready for the next school year.

Teachers pop in and out of here occasionally, but for the most part it's just a few staff members amidst the drone of window air conditioners.

Quite the contrast to the rest on Omaha. The crack of the bats at Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium drew everyone here for the College World Series. Concerts in the parks, arts festivals, Shakespeare and Jazz on the Green are all happening things in Omaha. Throw in the new riverfront development and one might actually think we are more than a little sophisticated here. Who? Us? Sophisticated? Here in Omaha?

Aren't we the same kids who ran off early every summer morning, and disappeared into Benson park 'til dusk, or at least until we were hungry. Aren't we the same group of kids that ran around in "play clothes"? And didn't that mean cut-off jean shorts and t-shirts without anything particularly clever or descriptive written on the shirt? It most likely was handed down to us from our older siblings. We didn't care!

We whooped it up every day in the summer. Baseball games in the street, dodge ball games where it was "dodge, duck or die," water fights, games of hide and seek with immense hiding territory—That was us. And every house had open screen doors

so parents could hear the echo of our escapades till well after dark. We finally made it home by the light of fireflies.

We're the same kids who gathered around the radio to listen to Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney on the Kraft Radio Hour Music Show, along with 50 million other Americans. We crowded around a black & white TV for Howdy Doody, Hop-A-Long Cassidy, I Love Lucy and the original Mickey Mouse Club Show and we swooned to the tunes of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Elvis on vinyl 45's. We jitter-bugged and swing danced through the big band era, learned every move we could from American Bandstand, grooved to the Beatles, watched awestruck as the Rolling Stones shook up the Ed Sullivan Show, and pretended we were as California cool as The Beach Boys. We survived "new-math", the cold war, fall-out shelters and bobby sox. We tried out hula-hoops, mood rings, pet rocks, string-art and paint-by-number pictures on black velvet. (Anyone out there still have a Velvet Elvis?) We have dyed hair, lost hair, gained weight, lost weight, acquired glasses, contacts or bifocals and some of us have taken advantage of the nipping and tucking talents of plastic surgeons. And we're still here!

The baby boomers have come of age, gracefully I might add, transitioning from long hair, tie-dye and sandals into sophisticated suits, high heels and ties. Somehow we survived the 80's and 90's and now, we slip comfortably into our Birkenstocks, thank you very much.

I don't feel older, but I do sometimes wonder how the songs I grew up with can

now be classified as "Oldies" on the radio. I guess time marches on to a new drummer and we don't want to be left behind. As usual, summer is flying by. We see back to school sales and then we race to the end of the summer, trying to sneak in a little vacation time.

And yet, there is always nostalgia here because so many people have come and gone at St. Bernard's. The numbers are in the thousands! The parish was founded in 1905. If you do the math, it means that St. Bernard's Parish will celebrate its 100th Anniversary next year! *One Hundred Years!* How about that! Quite the milestone! St. Bernard's was founded when Benson was the west edge of Omaha. This was the place to be. This was cutting edge Omaha.

That also means that some of the most remarkable and successful people in and around the Omaha area walked through these doors. Family roots and early ties to friends and neighbors all began right here in Benson.

We have a remarkable history. I invite you to think about your memories of the early days at St. Bernard's. Write them down and send them to us. Over the next year we will share them in the newsletter. It will be fun!

We still face the "dog days" of summer. Kick back when you can, put your feet up and enjoy a tall lemonade while you listen to your favorite "oldies". And remember where you were when we were all young, right here at St. Bernard's in Benson.

†  
**St. Bernard's Parish**

JULY 26, 2004

DEAR FRIENDS & ALUMS:

WE ARE THINKING AHEAD TO OUR FALL DINNER AUCTION...ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2004! DO PLAN TO ATTEND...ALL ARE WELCOME!

OUR THEME THIS YEAR..."TO EVERYTHING - THERE IS A SEASON". AS ALWAYS, WE NEED HELP COLLECTING DONATED ITEMS FOR OUR AUCTION. WE ARE THINKING SEASONAL GOODS WOULD BE FUN. NEED SOME IDEAS? WINTER - HOCKEY & BASKETBALL TICKETS OR FUNCTIONS, SKI-TRIPS, SNOW BLOWERS; SPRING - FLOWERS & GARDENING, OR LAWN & DECK ITEMS; SUMMER - GOLF CERTIFICATES OR OUTINGS, PICNICS, AND/OR BEACH VACATION IDEAS; AND OF COURSE, FALL - BACK TO SCHOOL, AUTUMN COLORS, BED & BREAKFAST & FABULOUS HUSKER FOOTBALL PACKAGES WOULD BE GREAT FUN.

CAN YOU DONATE A CERTIFICATE TO YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANT...OR FREQUENT FLYER MILES? CAN WE USE YOUR CONDO, CABIN, OR TIME-SHARE...TO BUILD AN EXCITING VACATION GET-A-WAY? DON'T FORGET INTERESTING ITEMS A PARENT COULD BUY FOR THEIR CHILD...REMEMBER OUR AUCTION IS ONLY A COUPLE MONTHS FROM CHRISTMAS AND THE HOLIDAYS.

CAN YOU HELP? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OH...OF COURSE, UNDERWRITING DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND APPRECIATED! FOR DETAILS, TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER...PLEASE CONTACT BETH KLUG AT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT ST. BERNARD'S # 561-6826, OR JOE & BARB LAMOUREUX #965-3920.

ONCE AGAIN, MARK YOUR CALENDARS. THE EVENT IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2004. SOCIAL HOUR STARTS AT 6:00 P.M. AND DINNER IS AT 7. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT THE SCHOOL. CORPORATE TABLES ARE FILLING UP FAST. TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, CALL 561-6826. BETTER YET, USE THE ORDER FORM ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS LETTER TO GET YOUR RESERVATION IN FOR THIS DELIGHTFUL EVENT. WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

BARB AND JOE LAMOUREUX  
EVENT COORDINATORS  
ST. BERNARD'S DINNER AUCTION

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To Everything There Is A Season

September 25, 2004

**St. Bernard's Parish Dinner Auction**

**Here's a preview of auction items:**

Catered dinners delivered to your party  
Nebraska Football tickets  
Enjoy a limousine ride while viewing Christmas lights.  
Autographed Novels  
A relaxing week away at a condo (sleeps 4)  
on Lake of the Ozarks  
Dinner for 2, a show at the playhouse and  
a night at the Marriott  
A moonwalk ride for two hours at your party—great for kids!  
Symphony tickets, opera tickets, concert tickets!  
A catered dinner at Cathedral, hosted by Fr. Hunke.

**All  
proceeds from the  
Dinner Auction are  
unrestricted funds for support of  
St. Bernard's Parish.**

**Great auction items are  
coming in every day!**

There will be  
hundreds of items  
to bid on!

Return this form with remittance to:

St. Bernard's Parish  
3604 North 65th Street  
Omaha, NE 68104  
Attn: Development Office

Phone: 402-561-6826  
Fax: 402-551-4939  
Email: bklug@marian.creighton.edu

**Dinner Auction Ticket Order Form**

Yes! I am planning to attend the dinner. Please reserve \_\_\_\_ seats for me  
at \$50.00 a seat or \$500 for a reserved table of 10.

Yes! I would like to help defray the cost of the Auction. Please accept my  
contribution of:

\$50.00 \$200.00 \$500.00 or Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Order total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like your tickets mailed  
to you, be sure your address is correct.

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## **Being Passionate about Holy Communion**

*by Father Paul Hoelsing*

"This is a year for passion," wrote Garrison Keillor in his recent book *Homegrown Democrat: A few plain thoughts from the heart of America*. From the war in Iraq to research on stem cells, moral problems of all shapes and sizes have had daily exposure in our media and coffee shop discussions. In some instances, even our political and presidential candidates have increasingly framed their campaigns around values we all share rather than the issues we want addressed. Politicians know about inciting passions. The appeal to values and deeply held convictions can drive the polls in unanimous directions, but the voice of a truthful conscience must rule our passions and guide our choices. As a result, the Church has always tried to form the consciences of her members according to the mind and heart of Christ. These disciples will need to be gentle as doves and clever as serpents at times.

On a recent occasion, a pro-life journalist cornered two prominent Catholic politicians. The journalist pressed them on how they square being Catholic and, at the same time, unqualifiedly pro-abortion. One responded, "I take my beliefs, I take my religion, very seriously. Look, I know who I am and what I believe." Then, speaking of the bishops, he said, "It's their problem, not mine." The other politician responded with "If the bishops can't do and won't say anything about that, don't come to me. You know what I'm saying?" Suggestively, the two statements combine to say, "If the bishops can't or won't do anything about that, don't come to me. It's their problem, not mine." In a sense the politicians were right, but now that the bishops have spoken clearly and directly to many of them about the consequences of their legislative position, a crossroad and sometimes painful reformation of conscience has arrived.

As pastors of unity in the Church, the bishop's teaching on matters of faith and morals comes from the heart of the Church: the Eucharist, the real

presence of the Way, the Truth and the Life. In fact, the bishops speak without error when they teach in opposition to abortion and euthanasia. Anyone who promotes otherwise in these matters would be in a position of rejecting a truth of Catholic doctrine and would therefore no longer be in full communion with the Catholic Church. Consequently, reception of the Eucharist while obstinately persisting in a position contrary to the Church, becomes a lie and a scandal to the faithful. The teaching of the bishops is not meant to punish, but to bring healing in the Body of Christ, the Church, and that is worth being passionate about.

Our Lord knows how to order the passions. Our Lord frequently preached to crowds of people who were passionately opposed. In those instances you will find that he often addressed the divisive issues with the grace of a parable. He would speak of the coming of the Kingdom, the coming of the Messiah, or the observance of the Law through parables. His stories held the crowd in tact, but a clear message worth wrestling toward a decision could enter the heart of those "who had ears to hear."

We know that the Gospel message will cut more surely than a two-edged sword and pit mother against daughter and father against son, so during a year of high emotions, our bishops' plain thoughts and straightforward teaching may need an extra dose of tactful parables. Perhaps the storytelling talent of Garrison Keillor may be in order, but not a year of passion without truthful reason. We cannot vote without Christ. His truth ensures the ordering of passions, and we know the truth makes us free. As elections approach, may we act *with* passion, but not *out of* passion. May we have ears to hear the truth, which actually makes us and our country free.

(Father Hoelsing is the Assistant Pastor at St. Bernard's Parish.)

### **Who's who on Staff**

Pastor: Fr. Jerome Spenner

Asst. Pastor: Fr. Paul Hoelsing

Principal: Mrs. Ellie Seward

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. Jody Mangiameli

School Secretary:

Mrs. Pat Mueeting

Director of Religious Formation:

Mrs. JoAnne Raleigh

Cafeteria Manager:

Mrs. 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

Maintenance Engineer: Terry Dickey

Development Director:

Ms. Beth Klug

### **To Everything There Is A Season**

Plans for the St. Bernard's Dinner Auction are well under way. The theme is "To Everything There Is A Season". You can be sure that there will be a variety of seasonal items to bid on during the silent and oral auctions.

Honorary Chairpersons for the event are parishioners John and Chris Dockery. Long time members of St. Bernard's and avid supporters, John and Chris have already invited many friends to be part of our event, including a number of former parishioners.

Last year, alumni Joe Lamoureux and his wife Barb were honorary chairs. This year they wanted to step up their involvement level, and became the event coordinators. They are enthused and excited about the event. Their enthusiasm has proved contagious as new volunteers have joined to work on various committees for the event and ticket sales are booming..

We appreciate the efforts of John and Chris Dockery and Barb and Joe Lamoureux to help make the dinner auction an even bigger success.

Included with this mailing, is a letter requesting your support for the dinner auction. On the reverse side of the letter is an order form for tickets to the event. Tickets are \$50.00 and are available by calling the development office at 561-6826. You may also mail in your ticket order on the enclosed form. With the growth of corporate table reservations, ticket sales are ahead of last year and we anticipate a sell-out. Don't delay, order yours today to attend this delightful event. Reserve a table and bring your family and friends. You won't want to miss it!



St. Bernard's Parish  
3605 North 65th St.  
Omaha, NE 68104

Address Service Requested

Phone: 402-561-6826

Fax: 402-551-4939

Email: [bklug@marian.creighton.edu](mailto:bklug@marian.creighton.edu)

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**Save the Date !**  
**September 25, 2004**  
St. Bernard's Parish  
Dinner Auction  
**Don't Miss It!**

**Look for calendar sales to start in October.**  
Buy a chance to win \$ every day for an entire year!

We are looking for Saint Bernard's alumni. Who do you know? How can we find them? Please call the St. Bernard's alumni office At 402-561-6826 and let us know. You can also reach us by email at:

[bklug@marian.creighton.edu](mailto:bklug@marian.creighton.edu)  
*The purpose of the St. Bernard's Alumni Association is two fold: 1) to organize, develop and build a dynamic group of alumni with opportunities for fellowship. 2) to promote the success of St. Bernard's Grade School, its students, potential students and faculty.*

\*\*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](mailto:bklug@marian.creighton.edu)**

**Full Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Maiden** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade School Grad Yr.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Job Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are you up to?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_