

By the Grace of God, the Catholic Indian Mission exists to serve the Lakota people and all others who live on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation by educating children and adults in order to alleviate suffering caused by poverty, hunger, and homelessness.



Standing Rock Reservation
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

Volume XXV, Number 4
Fall/Winter 2011

From Vandalism to Baptism:

All I want for Christmas is Clean Mission Buildings and Cleaner Vandal Souls

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Father Basil Atwell, OSB

Standing outside the Post Office one day, I was greeted by a familiar voice coming from the inside of a parked car. I recognized the woman immediately. I poked my head in the passenger's window. "Beatrice" is a young parishioner who works with troubled teens in the area. She had a passenger along, a youth maybe 15 or 16 years old.

Beatrice introduced me. "This is Father Basil." said she. The youth looked straight forward saying nothing. I looked at him and said it was good to meet him. He was wearing one of those ugly flat-brimmed "gangsta-wannabe" caps; the kind that you want to grab hold of and bend the brim just a bit. He nodded slightly, still looking forward, giving a slight and quick glance in my direction. I asked him his name. He said something incomprehensible.

His reply came from somewhere deep in his throat, but I couldn't make it out and his lips were rather taut as he tried to speak. Thinking he might be either challenged or just back from a dental appointment, I looked at the woman quizzically, hoping she would translate whatever it was he said. She looked at him and then back at me. "His name's Ritter," she said.

"It's good to meet you, Ritter. So where were you born and raised?" Again, a low guttural sound made with his lips barely moving. "What?" I asked, again turning to the woman in the car. I was beginning to think he had some unique mental challenge but I didn't want to jump to conclusions. Then I caught on. I stood back, opened his car door wide and said, "SPIT IT OUT." He leaned out of the car and spit a huge wad of chewing tobacco and saliva, which he had been savoring. It all came gushing out to the ground at my feet. "There now; that's much better. So where were you born and raised?" I asked again. Quite clearly this time, he replied, "Fort Yates."

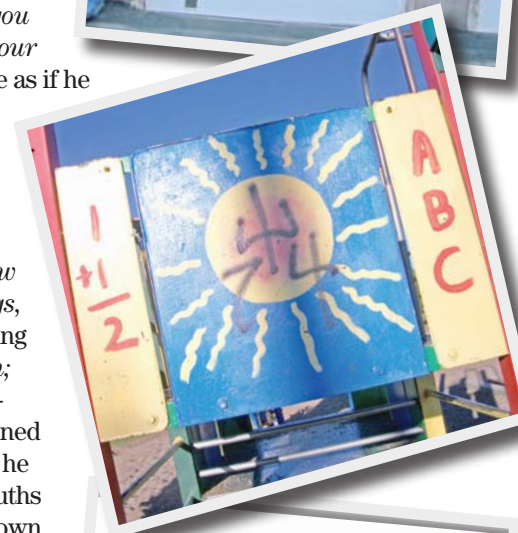
I knew the youth had been in a bit of trouble; had he not been, my parishioner wouldn't have had him in her car. So I began a conversation with Beatrice, and respected Ritter's privacy. He sat there obviously a bit nervous. She told me some interesting facts about Ritter, and also that Ritter and his older brother Duncan wanted to be baptized. I asked Ritter whether or not this was true? He nodded without saying anything.

I thought his silence might be due to another bit of chew and saliva building up. "Father," Beatrice said to me, "Remember I told you about the two boys who wanted baptism? Well, this is one of them."

I looked at him again, thinking, "Does this kid realize what baptism is? Does he have any idea what demands baptism places upon Christ's disciples? Does he even know who Jesus Christ is? Will he even care about the gift of the world's Redemption that Christ Jesus won for us on the Cross? How much does he know about Christianity?" So I asked him, "Ritter, do you realize that once you receive baptism, all your past sins will be forgiven?" He looked at me as if he didn't believe forgiveness were a possibility for him. "Everything." I said. "Gone! Do you believe in God?" I asked. His reply was firm, "Yah. I do." "Well," I continued, "God wants to forgive all your sins, no matter what they are. And He will, if you will allow Him the honor. You've done some bad things, haven't you?" He nodded, obviously beginning to trust my words. "Jesus is God in the flesh; and forgiveness comes through him," I concluded. Then Beatrice spoke up and mentioned that he's "a good kid. He really is!" and that he had intimated to her that he is one of the youths responsible for some of the graffiti around town. "I'm proud of him for telling me that on his own, Father," she said.

Then, in that moment, my mind instantly recalled the meaningless gang symbols we had just removed from my rectory and school playground. "Besides twelve broken school windows, the stolen truck, the smashing of door locks", I thought, "the Mission buildings were recently the target of a number of hit-and-run 'graffiti artists'!" (I fail, even now, to see any artistic value in the "work" of these artists! Thank goodness for graffiti removal products.)

This is the second time in as many weeks that the Mission was vandalized. I knew, as this kid looked at me, that he was one of the culprits. He



A Saint for Our Time

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Sister Ann Schoch, SSND

Pastoral Minister

A lovely statue of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha stands near the Church of St. Peter here in Fort Yates, a reminder of the importance of our Native people in this local church. Today Kateri Tekakwitha is often referred to as “The Lily of the Mohawks” but as a child she was known as Little Sunshine. Little Sunshine walked the forests of America a century before there was a United States!

She was born in 1656 near the Canadian border in present day Auriesville, New York. Orphaned at age four by a smallpox epidemic, she lived with an aunt and uncle. Smallpox disfigured her and diminished her eyesight to the point that she often bumped into things. Little Sunshine was given a new name – Tekakwitha (She Pushes With Her Hands). Later when baptized she took Katherine – Kateri in Mohawk – in honor of St. Catherine of Siena. Almost immediately after her baptism she was persecuted by some in her tribe and disdained by many whites. Despite the hostility she remained courageous and strong in her belief of Jesus Christ.

Kateri was attracted to a contemplative and celibate life. When her aunt and uncle attempted to trick her into marriage she managed to escape. Eventually, with the help of a Christian some 140 miles up the St. Lawrence River, she succeeded to reach the Sault Mission in New France (Canada). In this place her faith deepened.

Kateri died in 1680 at age twenty-four. A miracle occurred when smallpox scars disappeared from her face fifteen minutes after her death. John Paul II beatified her on June 22, 1980. If canonized she will be the first Native American woman to achieve Sainthood. Kateri Tekakwitha is patron of our Native people.

This summer I had the good fortune of attending the 72nd annual Tekakwitha Conference in Tucson, Arizona. Over 900 were in attendance, Native Americans from the vast number of different tribes from across the USA and Canada. Among this crowd only a few white faces, like mine, could be spotted! The people were on fire with Kateri, making their love for her so visible and their longing for her canonization so evident.

The Tekakwitha Conference is the voice, presence and identity of Native American Catholics under the protection of Kateri Tekakwitha. It empowers the Catholic indigenous peoples as Church and affirms pride in their cultures and spiritual traditions. Inculturation in all liturgies and religious education programs is promoted and encouraged by the Conference. I was moved by the beautiful Indian rituals incorporated into the daily Eucharistic celebrations.

My attraction toward Kateri Tekakwitha grew during this Conference and I promised myself that I would try to revive the Kateri Circle that once existed here in our parish. A Kateri Circle is two or three, and more, who gather for prayer and spiritual support, for learning of and promoting the life of Kateri Tekakwitha, and for outreach to the local community.

The theme of our gathering in Arizona was, “The Grand Canyon State is Enriched by Kateri Tekakwitha.” I want Fort Yates and our surrounding communities to be enriched by Kateri and her legacy! Her holiness can be a source of strength for all. Let us join the Native American people in praying for the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha!



PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA

O GOD, WHO AMONG THE MANY MARVELS OF YOUR GRACE IN THE NEW WORLD, DID CAUSE TO BLOSSOM ON THE BANKS OF THE MOHAWK AND OF THE ST. LAWRENCE, THE PURE AND TENDER LILY, KATERI TEKAKWITHA, GRANT WE BESEECH YOU, THE FAVOR WE BEG THROUGH HER INTERCESSION; THAT THIS YOUNG LOVER OF JESUS AND OF HIS CROSS MAY SOON BE COUNTED AMONG THE SAINTS BY HOLY MOTHER CHURCH, AND THAT OUR HEARTS MAY BE ENKINDLED WITH A STRONGER DESIRE TO IMITATE HER INNOCENCE AND FAITH. THROUGH THE SAME CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.



Significant Beginnings at Saint Bernard Mission School!

Oh the joys of beginning the school year at Saint Bernard Mission School and on the second day of classes realizing the need to begin a waiting list for Kindergarten through Fourth grades. We began to scramble in



Sister Richardé Marie Wolf, SSND
School Principal

early August as Kindergarten numbers were climbing. Initial plans were to continue as last year having K and First grade together in one classroom. It soon became apparent that a combined classroom would no longer work. Our Kindergarten increased

from five students to 20 students for the current year. It's amazing to experience a 400% increase! Needless to say our 5 year olds have a classroom of their own. Sister Janet Heiar, SSND and Foster Grandparent June Bailey are busy creating an environment that helps the children ready themselves for listening, loving and learning.

As principal of the Mission School I see that we do have a strong ray of hope and that by trusting in God, and believing that new doors will open, we have promising possibilities of increasing our enrollment with each succeeding year. With the grace of God, this year's growth is going to lay the foundation for growth for years to come. Please pray with us for our Catholic Indian Mission School's future.

The staff at SBMS is working as a team and is responsible in providing a healthy learning climate and a safe environment for the students that are enrolled for the 2011-2012 school year. The staff is committed in promoting positive spiritual and cognitive growth for the 73 children in our care.

Teachers Take STEM Training

By V. Noel Wax

This past June three staff members took an initial STEM training course. For two weeks Sr. Richarde, Steve Lugar and Noel Wax experienced hands-on ways to teach Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The teachers did many different activities designed to help students become more involved in these important subject areas.

The idea of STEM is to have learning occur in an integrated way. Students can become involved in an activity like building a robot. There is engineering and technology involved at the beginning. Then students will be asked to solve a problem; namely make the robot run a simple maze or move in a specific direction. That's where problem solving and Math will begin to become elements in the activity. Students will need to measure and plan. They will need to

think through steps to reach their goal.

Other activities included isolating DNA, using the electron microscope from NDSU, visiting the Missouri River to look for insect life, using computer programs and learning games that can be used to teach Science concepts. One group did math activities based on being stranded on an island. These activities included building a shelter and a water storage container.

The two week workshop was just the beginning of the training. The staff members will meet for four additional weekend workshops to report back on what they have introduced into their classrooms and to learn additional information to help them continue teaching STEM in their classrooms.

VANDALISM

Continued from page 1

didn't deny his wrong-doing either!

"He is so sorry he did that Father." Beatrice said softly, like a mother, looking at Ritter. She then added "I told him I forgive him." When Beatrice said she had forgiven him, she spoke as one among many in the community who have been hurt by the senseless destruction of personal and public property due to vandals. She had every right to speak those words if she wanted to. I had to give her that!

"Are you sorry for what you've done?" I asked, looking at Ritter, probably with a bit of chill in my voice. "Yeah, I am." His reply seemed genuine enough, for a gangsta-wannabe, that is, as I judged him 'guilty', still feeling the sting of the last two "artistic endeavors" on Mission grounds. It was obvious to me that Beatrice and Ritter had spoken at length about this issue and it was time for me to let it go and allow Ritter to see Christ and experience the Lord's mercy. She then spoke to the young man, "Father will forgive you, too, Ritter." He looked straight at me, wondering what I might say about this. I admit, my pride wanted to drag him out of that car and teach him a lesson, but I said a prayer instead and simply said, "Okay. I forgive you too. I really do," strangely meaning what I said. "And when you are baptized, everything you have ever done wrong will be forgiven as well. God will forgive and forget."

He relaxed a bit and smiled at me for the first time. Something came over the young man when I said that God wants to forgive him for every bad thing he has ever done. He obviously believed it, since even I, "a victim," forgave him.

Weeks later, both he and his brother are now regular visitors with Beatrice. Both have demonstrated true reverence and respect in church. Both have been attending a weekly study of Sacred Scripture and the two brothers have asked me to baptize them. They realize the Christian life is not for pretenders or "wannabes." They also realize the "gangster" attitude has got to go.

As they eagerly learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church; and, as they continue to prepare for baptism, they say that things are changing. One can only hope.

Beatrice came over the other day and, with excitement in her voice, told me that as the youths left the mission church one day, they told her, "life isn't gloomy anymore. The whole world is brighter." Thanks to the good work of this parishioner, who takes her work and her faith very seriously, more young people are beginning to see the value of our Christian faith. And with this new insight serious life changes are bound to be made.

From Vandalism to Baptism: All this got me to thinking. I told the young men recently, "Any good graffiti remover can remove the tell-tail signs of some of our more creative sins, but only Baptism removes the stain of all sin." What is more, I have told them, "Once the waters of baptism have been applied, and those grace-filled words "I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" have been spoken, nothing can ever remove the permanent mark of your Christian faith. Baptized in Him, you will belong to Christ forever. Together with all the baptized faithful, you will serve God and God alone!"

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Catholic Indian Mission received a \$10,000 grant from the Lawrence E. Ruf Charitable Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation in Bradenton, Florida

To Live is to Give: What Children are Made of...

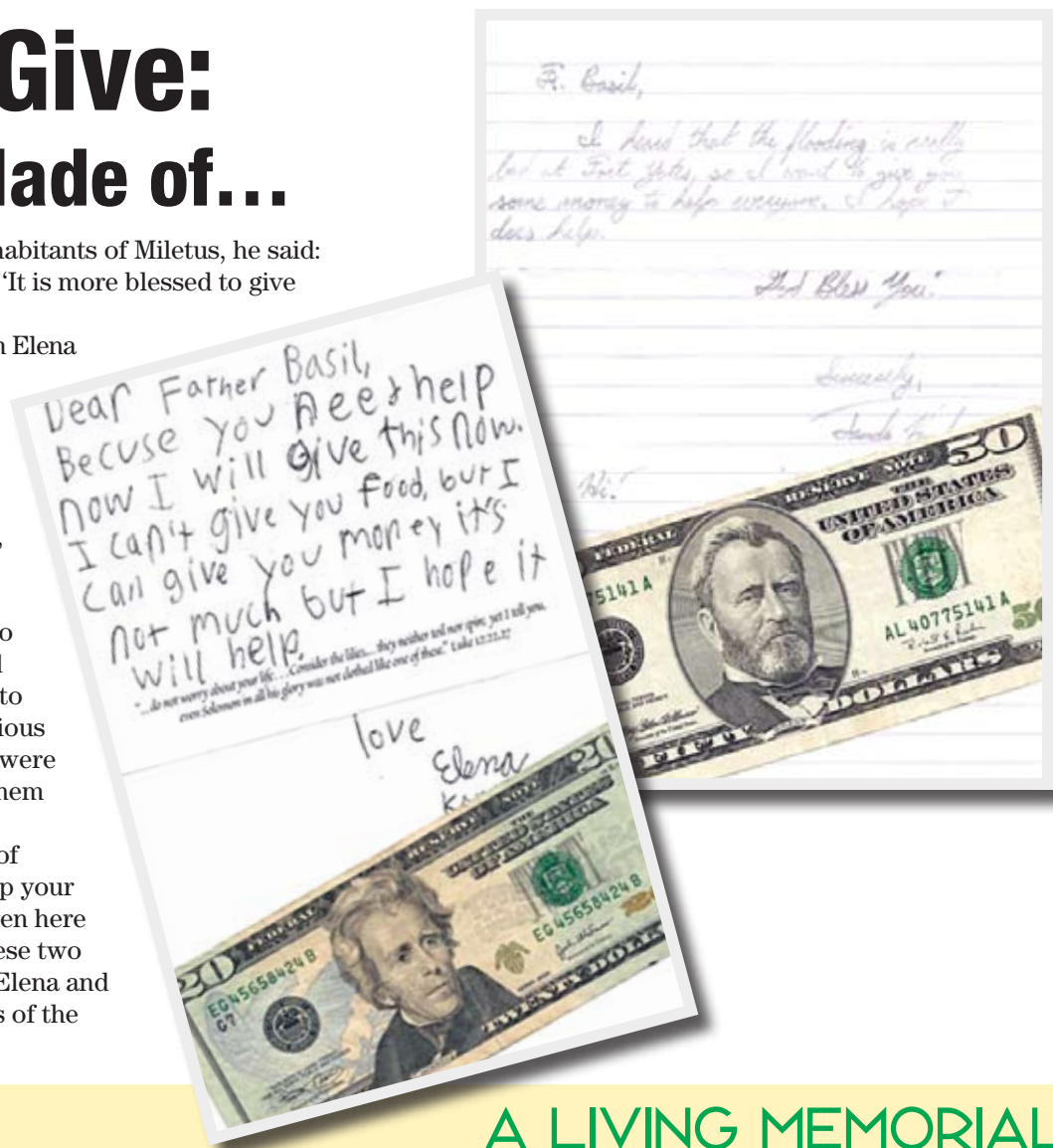
When the Apostle St. Paul gave his farewell speech to the inhabitants of Miletus, he said: “(K)eep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20: 35

Not long ago, I received two notes in through the mail, one from Elena and one from her sister Tanda. The notes came just a week apart. One came in the form of a card, the other as a letter.

Both messages were hand-written and brought me much consolation. The youngsters’ generosity prompted me to share their messages with all of our readers. Both notes contained a generous and sorely-needed financial contribution, which aided in the flood effort here last summer.

I called the girls’ mother to let her know that I received her daughters’ gifts, and also to thank her for raising her children to be so generous. I also asked her if she would mind if I included their thoughtful notes in this newsletter. She was very pleased to know what their daughters had done for the Mission. With obvious joy in her voice, she told me that she had wondered what they were up to as they carefully sealed those envelopes and addressed them to the Catholic Indian Mission.

If you are a parent of young children or if you are a teacher of children, who have more advantages socially, please kindly help your children understand the plight of many Native American children here on Standing Rock. We need more children in this world like these two girls. This Christmas, please everyone about the generosity of Elena and her older sister Tanda, and ask them to keep in mind the words of the Lord, “it is better to give than to receive.” Thank you.



MEMORIALS

The donors and the deceased are remembered at the altar each day.

Gift From

Carol Grantham
Adam McClosky/Eric Pitre
Roman & Donna Weiler
Emma Plume-Clifford
Jane Atkins
Marilyn Cunningham
Doleen Borba
Frank Wendryhoski
Marilyn Cunningham
Kenneth Ochs
Vivian Rotering
Leah Frohlich
Theodore & Jeanette Baba
Gladys Trudell
Ivo & Joan Schoch
Jerome & Elizabeth Volk

Al and Judy Dosch
Caroline Heidt
Leonard Steckler
Marilyn Cunningham
Eleanor Zebrowski
Verona Loechler

Donald & Eleanor Miller
Mary Haich

Memory of

Joseph Wetzstein
Mr. & Mrs. Stash McClosky
Brother Mark Kosiba
Paul and Shirley Plume
Lori Ridgeway
Glen Aichele
Joseph Borba
Dottie Wendryhoski
Neil Meyer
Rita Marie Carroll Ochs
Robert Koppinger
Mrs. L. Frohlich
Baba Family & Anne Marie
Mary McCallum
Jerome & Emma Schoch
Joe Loh, Richard Selinger,
Gregory Kelsch
Karen Dosch
Rudy Heidt
Lyle Steckler
Wesley Petesch
Henry & Martha Zebrowski
Charles & Caroline Loechler
Ray Clouse, Joan Clouse
William & Adeline Miller
Felix Haich

Gift From

Phil & Gerry Grayson
Thomas Crowley
Edwin Boger
Irene Howard
John & Mary Bluemle
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Hudak
Little Flower Parish Council

Helen C. Peterson
William J. Daley
Marilyn Cunningham
Joseph McKeirnan
Betty A. Frank
United Tribes Tech. College
Deb & Gary Conlon
Mary Alice Beauclair

Marilyn Cunningham
James & Lori Rausch
Judy Kane

Jerome & Elizabeth Volk

Memory of

Elsie Maeshbecker
Olympia H. Crowley
Josephine (Voigt) Boger
Anna Bren
Edward Townsell
Louise Switch Young
In Honor of: Sandy Bahl, for
her retirement as president of
the parish council at
Little Flower
Bruce Jacobs
Agnes & Debbie Daley
Donald Burke
Kathleen McKeirnan
Doratheia Renner
Gladys Two Horses
Gerald Bender
In Honor of: 50th Anniversary
of Sr. Thomas Welder,
Sr. Joann Kresback, Sr. Agnes
Kathryn Miller
Mike Holzer
Jack O. Kane, Julie Mamana,
Mr. Cockburn
Richard Lefor

A LIVING MEMORIAL TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE

Enclosed is my Memorial/Honor/Gift of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

In Memory of _____

or

In honor of _____

Commemorating _____

Send card to _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mail to: **Catholic Indian Mission**
PO Box 639

Fort Yates, ND 58538-0639

Please send me Memorial forms:

_____ Book of 6 _____ Pad of 25

Creating Your Own Personal and Family Legacy

BENEFITTING OTHERS THROUGH YOUR WILL

In addition to being one of the simplest ways to distribute your estate, your *will* can also be a creative vehicle through which to make thoughtful gifts. After providing for the needs of loved ones, you may choose one of several ways to benefit charitable organizations and institutions you have enjoyed supporting. By having your attorney *include one* of the proper ways of making a bequest, or if you *already have a will*, having your attorney revise your will or add a simple amendment, you can make a legacy gift to the Catholic Indian Mission in your name and/or your family's name.

Percentage:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Catholic Indian Mission, Inc., of Fort Yates, North Dakota, federal tax identification number 45-0305887, _____% of my estate."

Dollar amount:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Catholic Indian Mission, Inc., of Fort Yates, North Dakota, federal tax identification number 45-0305887, \$ _____."

Specific property:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Catholic Indian Mission, Inc., of Fort Yates, North Dakota, federal tax identification number 45-0305887, (description of property), location at (exact location)."

Residue:

(Whatever is left after other bequests have been granted) "All the residue of my estate, including real and personal property, I give, devise, and bequeath to the Catholic Indian Mission, Inc., of Fort Yates, North Dakota, federal tax identification number 45-0305887."

A LARGE GIFT AT LOW COST THROUGH LIFE INSURANCE

Life insurance needs change as life progresses. Children become self-sufficient and investments may provide unexpected income and security. As a result, not all life insurance

coverage may be needed for the reason it was initially purchased. Also because federal law now exempts many estates from taxation, life insurance purchased to cover estate taxes may be "obsolete." One of the simplest ways to make a significant gift in the future is to name the Catholic Indian Mission to receive all or a portion of the proceeds of a policy no longer needed for its original purpose. Another way to make a gift of insurance is to purchase a new policy, naming the Catholic Indian Mission as the beneficiary or co-beneficiary. You can ensure a gift which may ultimately be much larger than its cost.

GREAT GIFTS THROUGH RETIREMENT PLANS

Whether you participate in a company *pension plan* or a fund you have established yourself, such as an *Individual Retirement Account (IRA)*, you may accumulate funds beyond your needs for such a case, it may be very easy and convenient to make a gift from such accounts to perpetuate work you consider vital for the well-being of future generations. It can be satisfying to know that the funds you carefully saved over a lifetime may ultimately be put to good use now or as part of a prudent estate plan.

A GIFT OF LASTING SIGNIFICANCE: MEMORIALS

All of the ideas discussed here can be ways to make meaningful gifts to the Catholic Indian Mission while you *include an enduring tribute to a family member or other loved one*. There may be no better way to pay tribute to someone than through a gift with lasting meaning. Examples of memorial gifts are endless. The Catholic Indian Mission can attribute buildings, equipment, endowments funds, and a multitude of services to gifts made in memory of loved ones. We will be glad to assist you in choosing an appropriate commemoration for your gift in honor of someone special to you.



Planned Giving

Planned giving can be our final act of gratitude for God's many blessing throughout our lifetime.

Please contact Father Basil Atwell, OSB, pastor, at the Catholic Indian Mission, PO Box 639, Fort Yates, ND 58538-0639, to discuss any of these Planned Giving options. Phone: 701-854-3473.



Labels, Labels: Labels for Education

Because we have had so much success getting our readers to donate “Box Tops for Education” to Saint Bernard Mission School, Sister Shirley hopes we might have similar success asking all of you to also clip and save “Labels for Education.” According to the Labels for Education website,

“For more than 38 years, Labels for Education has been awarding free educational equipment to schools in exchange for proofs of purchase from the Campbell family of brands. It’s a fun, easy program where students, families and members of the community work together for a common goal.

“Today, over 60,000 schools and organizations are registered with Labels for Education, benefiting more than 42 million students. Over the years, we’ve been able to provide more than \$4 million in merchandise to America’s schools!”

Just clip the UPC label or the cap from participating products. There are many varieties of products from BIC®, Campbell’s®, DAN-NON®, Franco-American®, GLAD®, Pepperidge Farm®, Pop Secret®, Post® Raisin Bran and other Post® products, Prego®, SpaghettiOs®, Swanson®, Trail Mix Crunch®, V8®, Wolfgang Puck® and many others. There are also labels from magazines like TIME and Time Inc.® Magazines, ALL YOU, Health, PEOPLE, Real Simple, and Southern Living. Please visit <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/How-to-Earn/Participating-Products> for more information; and send your labels to Sister Shirley. Thank you!

First and Second Grades Begin a New Year

By V. Noel Wax

This year’s first grade has seven students and the second grade has fourteen, so we have 21 students in our class; a very nice size. We are looking forward to a great year where we will learn and experience a lot of new information and ideas. We will be preparing for first Reconciliation and first Eucharist. We will be learning to write cursive and multiply in grade two. First grade will be learning to add, subtract and become better readers.

We are beginning the 2011 – 2012 school year off on the right foot by being bibliophiles. They LOVE to read. Whenever there is a spare minute they have a book out to read or to share with a friend. We are just beginning the Accelerated Reader program so there have been more books read than reported on or tested, but we are off to a great start.

We have a writing buddy we named Mr. Kitty, who will be helping us with our writing projects throughout the year. With his help we have written and illustrated our first class story. We will eventually learn how to organize and write our



own individual stories, as well.

We have done some fun art activities already, including watercolor painting and sun-catcher fish to go along with our Science unit on fish. Our next unit will be on weather. We will be using what we learn about weather to develop our Science Fair project. The SBMS Science Fair is scheduled for November 22. This is an event the students look forward to every year.

We are well on our way to an eventful and exciting year in first and second grade. We will be praying for you and we hope you will continue to pray for us.



Grades 3 and 4 Update

By Steve Luger

We are back at it in the new school year. Some things have changed, but some things have stayed the same at our school, the best being our returning students. Last year I was teaching the 4th and the 5th grade, this year I got saddled with the 3rd and 4th grade; not a big change, but indeed, a challenging one.

In the classroom I do have a big help though. Last year a promethean board was installed and we have been able to get some good use out of it already this year. It helps out alot in getting

the students involved in our day to day activities instead of being stuck in the same routine. We hope that it helps our students make bigger strides toward a successful education than they have already been making.

Many things are still ahead of us in this school year and we are all excited to hit them head on. Next to come is the science fair. Next time I write, I am hoping to send you news of numerous 1st and 2nd places from our students. Enjoy your fall and take care.

Saint Bernard Mission School Improvement Plan

Sister Richardé Marie Wolf, SSND
School Principal

In late May the Education Consortium Leaders in connection with Standing Rock Reservation School educators, board members, administration, and supportive community members met for two days in assessing the progress made in our Reservation schools as we strive to meet the goals of our direction plan: Native American High Performance Learning Communities (NAHPLC). Patricia Stone, from Dallas, Texas has invested herself to lead the leaders of our schools in a process that invites us as a school team to set goals and strategies that direct our attention to education plans that ensure the success of the total system.

Sister Shirley and I took a leap of faith and made it known at that meeting that Saint Bernard Mission School was interested in the process of school improvement to include staff, parents and guardians, administration and community lead-

ers. In August we met with the teaching staff and shared the news that Pat was willing to work with us. The staff's first planning meeting with Pat also took place before we began classes with the students. As a team we have our initial plan in place.

Angie Thunker, is providing mentorship for Saint Bernard Mission School during our first year of participation. Ms. Thunker has been involved with NAHPLC for several years under the tutelage of Ms. Stone and will assist us with a plan that is specific to SBMS.

I am honored that Pat and Angie are providing the means and assisting us in taking an in-depth look at areas in our Mission school that guide us toward our objective of high standards that will direct and guide us to a firm foundation for our students as lifelong learners.

Saint Bernard Mission School 5th and 6th Grades Room

by Ms Murphy

The objectives are still the 4R's from long ago but with a twist. This year we are focusing on Recall, Research, Responsibility, and Respect.

RECALL

We have been informally assessing cognitive abilities, (Show What You Know) so that we can proceed with developmentally appropriate instruction.

RESEARCH

The question was asked: "How does God speak to us?" To answer this question, the students have identified seven styles of writing in the Bible and have defined and discussed each one. To take it a step further, each student has selected one style and is researching (via Bible, Internet, resource books) it for both an oral and a written presentation.

RESPONSIBILITY

Our school is academically and spiritually oriented and it is each student's responsibility to get the very best education possible. We will achieve this by working as a unit with the family, the SBMS staff, and the child.

RESPECT

The 5th and 6th graders are developing an appreciation of the honor and dignity required to be leaders and stewards. The first piece is respect for self, followed by respect for others. Plans have been made for self, classroom, campus, and community stewardship.



SAINT BERNARD TEACHER WISH LIST

- 2 Promethean Boards
- A Lumens Projector

SAINT BERNARD SCHOOL STUDENT WISH LIST

- ipads
- Playground Equipment
- Playground Surface
- Education City Program



CLOTHING: Of Special Note:

While I want to thank so many of you for sending boxes of used clothing through the mail in the past, I ask that you no longer send used clothing to the Mission, as we have no place to store the items properly.

What is more, at the moment we do not have available personnel to handle the many boxes we receive, often daily. For the time-being, please offer your good used clothing to local shelters and thrift shops in your area.

Thank you.

Fr. Basil, OSB



Catholic Indian Mission

Standing Rock Reservation

PO Box 639

Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538-0639

Address Service Requested



Breakfast Entertainment

One morning recently at breakfast we were honored to have a musical presentation by Gary Nordby. Gary is the cousin of Ellen Murphy, one of the SBMS staff, and was traveling through Fort Yates. He entertained us by describing three different mandolins he had made and played each one for us. He also gave us a rousing rendition of several well-known songs on his accordion. Thank you Mr. Nordby for making our breakfast special that morning.

A Christmas Wish

Along with the students, faculty and staff of the Catholic Indian Mission and Saint Bernard's Mission School, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas a Happy New Year 2012!

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who is God Incarnate, bless and protect

each and every one of you, our benefactors and friends during the holidays and always.

Without your kind support, your love, and your prayers, and the many sacrifices you make so often on our behalf, we could not continue to offer foundational educational opportunities to our students and necessary morale support to our Lakota and Dakota families who live on Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Please know that we remember all of you at daily Masses. In a special way, each of you will be remembered at Midnight Mass this Christmas. Please keep the Catholic Indian Mission in your thoughts and prayers as well.

Thank you.

Fr. Basil, OSB

