

## MAY NEWSLETTER 2010

### ST. JOHN BERCHMANS' CHURCH AND SCHOOL

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and peace.

May is traditionally the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We honor her and know she can lead us to her son Jesus. She was the first disciple and her words to the angel Gabriel, "I am the servant of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word," inspires us to imitate her example. When you hear our church bells ringing the Angelus at 12:00 noon and at 6:00pm, think of Mary's YES to our Lord and ask her to help us to say yes to God also.

There are several things happening in our parish this month. As you get this letter we would have just celebrated another parish festival. These festivals were cancelled for a while and then started up again four years ago. Each year they have improved and have brought in much needed revenue to the parish. In the spirit of accountability, a financial statement will be given out as a bulletin insert as soon as possible. In advance, I want to thank everyone who has had a part in this festival. May God bless you for the good you have done. We are continuing the work on our church renovation. I have written a letter to the Archbishop asking permission to put new carpet in the sanctuary, install four new entrance doors, and smooth out the transition area at the base of these doors. He has given me his initial approval provided I follow the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese. I will soon be working with Archdiocesan officials relative to design, contracts, insurance requirements and financing. After this I will present this project to the Archdiocesan Building Board and hopefully they will give a positive recommendation to the Archbishop. Once this happens I will contact the architect and this phase of our renovation will begin. By the end of this month Assumption Seminary will be sending a seminarian to spend the summer with us. He will be helping out in the parish and learning what parish life is like. His last day will be July 31<sup>st</sup>. The next day, August 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be getting another seminarian who will stay with us for an entire school year. He will be doing his internship here and will be evaluated by myself and a committee chosen from among the parishioners. At this time, the two rooms Bishop Cantu had as well as the guest room are being prepared for these two guests. Another thing happening this month will be the end of another school year. While the thought of being on summer vacation brings much happiness to our students it brings much sadness to me. They haven't left yet and I am already missing them. I really enjoy the time I get to be with them and not having them around just bums me out. Please keep our kids and their families in your prayers. I pray they will have a safe and rejuvenating vacation and I eagerly look forward to seeing them in the fall.

Another big happening is our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish. This will take place on August 10, 2010, with a special mass at 9:00am, followed by a reception in the school cafeteria. A lot of work and planning has gone into this celebration and there is still a lot more to do. We have finished our parish directory and we will soon be given a copy to proof read for any mistakes. Once we have done this it will be sent back to the publisher so they can begin making directories for those who will be receiving one. All those who had their picture taken will be given a free directory and those who did not have their picture taken will have an opportunity to purchase one from the limited number of extras we will have. More information on this will be given out in the next monthly newsletter.

The spiritual side of our parish continues to be very strong. Our DRE Mrs. Rosalinda Rodriguez and her teachers have been doing a tremendous service for our children. We had so many children making their First Holy Communion this month that they had to be broken up into two groups. One group made their First Communion at the 10:00am Mass and the other made theirs at the 12:00 noon Mass. It made me happy to see so many children excited about their faith and wanting to become altar servers. This summer Mrs. Rodriguez will be having a vacation bible study for our kids. Enrollment is limited to forty kids. Both the Women's and Teen Acts will be having their retreats next month and are busy right now preparing for it. Please keep the team and retreatants in your prayers. Many people who have been on these retreats have commented on what a positive experience it was for them and we are hoping the same will be true for those who will be making their retreat next month.

Our school has had a high enrollment this year and I would like to see us have even more students for the up-coming new year. Please help me achieve this goal by telling everyone you know about our school. Right now they are taking registrations for PK3 – 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2010-2011 school year. If you know of someone who might be interested in our school please tell them to give us a call at 433-0411 to schedule a tour. With the economy as it is now I know that sending a child to Catholic School is a big sacrifice but it is worth it. Not only do our students get a fine academic education, they also get to know Jesus and his church. I went to Catholic Schools from grade school to graduate school and will always be grateful to my parents for making this possible. These schools are what made me the person I am today and I want our students to have the same opportunities I had. I will gladly do whatever I can to see our school not only succeed but prosper and I respectfully ask all our parishioners to stand with me in support of our school.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your support of the parish and of me. Together we have accomplished a lot. I am so happy to see the improvements we have made to our fields, rectory, formation house, church, and school. While we have done much there is still a lot more to do. Chief among my concerns is a new roof for the school and new pews and floor for the church. Together these items will cost a lot of money but I have faith in God and I know with God's help we can meet these challenges. They will take time so please be patient and continue to support our Capital Expenditure Fund and fundraisers. You can count on me to not be wasteful with our money and to work hard everyday to earn your trust and respect. Let us continue to do our part to make our parish a special place where everyone feels welcome and at home. May the Holy family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph watch over all of us and keep us in their care.

Remember, God loves you and so do I!

Fr. Rudy T. Carrola, Jr.  
Proud Pastor, St. John Berchmans' and School

