



## APRIL NEWSLETTER 2010

### ST. JOHN BERCHMANS' CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

I do not know about you, but I am glad to see winter finally come to an end. I have been enjoying our short Texas spring season. It's the time of year when the temperature is not too hot and the wildflowers are in full bloom. If you have not yet see them go out and take a drive along the highways and roadways on the outskirts of San Antonio. The large areas of flowers look absolutely beautiful.

In last month's newsletter I reported on the many exciting things going on in the parish. Chief among these was the work we were going to do to the parking lot and main electrical panel. The church renovations and a new school roof were also mentioned. I am very pleased to inform you that the work on the new electrical panel and parking lot is now finished and I want to take this moment to thank you, the parishioners of SJB for making this possible. Your contributions to our once-a-month second collection for the Capital Expenditure Fund and support of our rummage sales and other fundraisers for the Fund made this possible. Our old electrical panel was thirty-five years old and had already partially broke down once. It was on borrowed time and I was praying we would be able to get the new one in before the old one broke down completely. The thought of the old panel going out bothered me a lot because if that would have happened our entire facilities, (except for the formation house), would be without electricity. Thanks to God we made it. The proposal to do this job was \$9,897.00. I am very happy with the way our parking lot turned out. Besides improving the looks of our parking lot many other parking lot issues were taken care of. The concrete on the curb near the North West side of the church was removed, several pot holes were repaired, and a 480 square foot of deteriorated asphalt was removed and the area covered with 1 ½ inches of Asphalt Hot Mix and rolled to compaction. After all this was done two coats of pave shield sealer were applied. The total cost to do this was \$8,875.00, which included a discount of \$350 dollars we received for paying in cash. After deducting \$6,942.13, (the money I received for my birthday and gave to the church for the parking lot), the cost to the church for the parking lot was \$1,932.87. Recently I met with the director of Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. We discussed the church renovation plans we were planning to do and he offered his recommendations as well. I will take these plans to the architects who will be helping us and hopefully we will soon begin working on these items. All the things we talked about would make a profound difference in our church and in how we view liturgy. With the current funds we have set aside for this we will not be able to get it all done at once. For now the plan is to get as many things done as we can with the money we have and continue to work on the rest. Hopefully we will not have to wait too long to get it all done. The school roof is in terrible condition and needs to be replaced. Several roofing contractors have looked at our school roof and will get back to me with a price. As of the writing of this letter I still have not received an estimate on how much it will cost. When I do I will be meeting with our finance council to formulate a plan to help us get this project done.

Even though our school has a high enrollment nothing would make me happier than to see it increase. Right now it is 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. I know it is a big sacrifice to send a child to a Catholic School but take it from me, a person who has attended Catholic Schools from grade school to college, it is well worth it. I will always be grateful to my parents for their sacrifices and hard work which made my Catholic education possible. I look forward to school each morning so that I can greet our students and their parents and grandparents as they come to school each morning. Seeing them reminds me of the days when I was in grade school and motivates me to work for

them just like others did for me. We are blessed to have a school and must do everything we can to ensure its success. I want our kids to have the best education possible and I ask your help in making our school the best it can be.

The spiritual side of our parish has always been very strong. We have just finished our Holy Week celebrations. They were terrific. It made me so happy to see so many people become full members of the Catholic Church. I want to thank Rosalinda Rodriguez for all the work she has done in helping these people make their sacraments. She is a blessing to all of us. Our Acts community is busy preparing for its Women's and teen's retreat. Please keep the team and those who will be on retreat in your prayers. I am happy we have a Life Teen ministry in our parish for our high school students and am grateful to our youth minister, Monica Rodriguez for all the work she has done for our teens. There are a lot of young adult age people in our community. They are looking to establish a group that will address their particular needs. Please keep this process in your prayers. I am looking forward to the day when these people form their own group and become part of our parish family.

As mentioned in last month's newsletters the big event on the horizon is our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this August. To do a celebration like this takes a large number of committed people. I am grateful to all those who had their picture taken for the directory. Now that this part is finished we hope to have the rest of it finished very soon so that the printing process can begin. All the parish organizations have had their picture taken, Archbishop Gomez, Bishop Cantu, and I have submitted our letters, and we are now finishing the work on our history and how the pictures will be laid out. So far the directory had taken hundreds of hours and an army of people to work on it. There is no way I can list all the names of those who have helped with this project but God knows who they are and he will reward them. When the directory becomes available those who had their picture taken will be given a free one and those who did not will have the opportunity to purchase one. Very soon we will be working on our dinner and liturgy. Details on this will be given out just as soon as they become available. Please keep all this in your prayers. We are working hard to have the best celebration possible for our anniversary.

In conclusion I just want to thank all the parishioners of St. John Berchmans' Church and School for the love and support you have shown me. When I arrived here at our parish the situation was not good. There was so much to do and not enough money to do anything. I spent many sleepless nights wondering if we were going to make it. After a while we came together as a family and worked together to help our parish get back on its feet. We are still continuing with this good work and I am encouraged by those who have come forward and given of their time and talent for our church and school community. I confess there are times when I get very tired but when I see good things happening for our people this makes me very happy and motivates me to keep on going. I ask you to please remember me in your prayers and ask God to keep me in good health. I too will keep you in my prayers. Every now and then something happens and we get set back but I know that if we stay united there is no challenge that together we cannot overcome. Know that I will always give you my best and serve you with all my heart. I will always be accountable to you and work hard to earn your trust. Let us continue to help each other and make our church and school a very special place. 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 Carrola, Jr.  
Pastor

