



JULY NEWSLETTER 2010

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

The month of July is traditionally a time when people are away on vacations and are enjoying the summer. It is a time when we take a well deserved rest from the work we have been doing during the other parts of the year. If you are spending the summer at home I hope it will be a restful time for you and if you're traveling know I am praying for your well being and a safe return home. The month of June and so far this month has been a terribly hot one. At times I find myself thinking about the people who do not have air conditioning and those who have to work outside. Please keep them in your prayers and pray also for rain, we sure do need it. May this summer be a time of rest and renewal for all of us.

As you read this newsletter I will be on a two week vacation. It has been a year since I had a full day off and I have been looking forward to the time when I can get away for a while. It will be so nice to spend some quality time with my family, relax, and not be burdened with a crazy schedule. Fr. George, Fr. Bob, and Fr. Lawrence will be doing the weekend masses during my absence. ***Please remember the mass on Saturday, July 3rd and 10th will be at 5:30pm and not at 5:00pm.*** During this time let us keep each other in prayer.

I am happy to report to you the renovations we wanted to do to the church have been approved by the Archdiocese. It has been a long process but we are finally getting there. We will keep the existing aluminum door frame at the front entrance of the church and put in four new custom exterior solid wood doors that will have interior panic devices. These doors will also have a cross cut into them filled with colored glass like the glass in our side windows. The stone squares to the left and right of these doors will be water blasted and the space between them will be re-caulked. This will make the front look much cleaner. The concrete stub at the base of the doors will be cut out and replaced by a sloped concrete that will enable those in wheel chairs and walkers to easily cross over into the church. The platform to the left of the altar will be removed and carpet will be installed over the existing concrete at the altar area. A design team will be sent to the church to help with product selection. Our architect is Frank C. Cosme from Fisher Heck Inc. Architects and the contractor is Keller-Martin Construction, Inc. These companies do excellent work and normally handle projects with budgets over a million dollars. I am so grateful to them for saying yes to our \$65,000 dollar budget. At the time I wrote this newsletter the architect has informed me that even though we haven't started, we are \$3,000 dollars over budget but he is confident he and the contractor can find areas where this amount can be reduced. I want to thank everyone whose contribution to the Capital Expenditure Fund and support of our fundraisers made this possible. I am also very happy with the festival we had. We made a profit of over \$28,000 dollars, the best since I have been here. I have been putting this money to good use. Broken and cracked windows in the church have been replaced; leaky faucets in the Ace House have been repaired, two, forty-five year old electrical motors and other ventilation items in the church have been replaced, low hanging and dangerous tree limbs have been removed, our grounds and basketball court area have been sprayed with a herbicide to control weeds, and furnishings have been purchased for the rectory guest rooms. Again, I am so grateful to everyone who supported our festival and helped out in any way. It is because of your generosity of time, treasure, and talent that we were able to do this necessary work. The next church fundraiser will be our annual dance at La Vilita on Friday, August 27th. We will be having a great dinner starting at 6:30pm followed by music with Grammy Award winner, Ruben Ramos and the Mexican Revolution. Cost is \$35 per person and includes dinner, dance, and a chance to win an autograph portrait of Ruben Ramos. For further information please contact the rectory office at 434-3247. All proceeds from this will benefit our church.

As I have said many times before, I feel the strongest part of our parish is our spirituality. Our people have good hearts. This was made very evident last month during the women's and teen's Acts retreat. I am so grateful to all the team members who gave so much of their time in preparation for the retreat and to their families who supported them.

Both women's and teen's retreats were very powerful experiences for everyone. I encourage everyone who has not gone on one to seriously think it over and attend the next available one for them. I guarantee you will have a positive experience. The men will soon be having theirs. Let's keep all of them in our prayers.

Next month we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary with a special mass on Sunday, August 8th, at 9:00am. Bishop Cantu will be the main celebrant. This will be the only mass we will have on this day so if you plan on coming please come early as seating is limited. After the mass we will have a luncheon in the cafeteria. The meal will consist of brisket, sausage, potato salad, beans, dessert and tea. All tickets for the meal are \$10 per person/child. Our guest speaker will be the Honorable JoAnn De Hoyos, Judge of County Court at Law #11. Judge De Hoyos is a life-long member of our parish and we are honored to have her here with us for this important event. Because our seating capacity is limited we will not be able to accommodate everyone, so if you want to come please come to the rectory and purchase your ticket. They will be sold on a first come first serve basis. We had planned to open the time capsule and have the contents be part of the ceremony but when the plaque was removed instead of a cavity containing the capsule there was a brick wall. I hate to break the wall because we probably will not be able to find brick that matches the existing brick. It would be very expensive to remove all the brick and rebuild the base. I hope I am wrong because I was looking forward to seeing what was in the capsule. If you know of someone who can help with this please tell them to contact me. Time is running out and the sooner we can start on this the better.

There are a few changes at the rectory I feel you should know about. We have a new bookkeeper, her name is Esther Barrett. Esther will be working from 9:00am to 1:00pm, Monday to Friday. Our former bookkeeper, Cindy Limones has moved on to other things and we wish her well. John Ruiz will no longer be working near the front of the rectory. I have noticed he has been unable to get his work done on time due to numerous interruptions from people dropping by to see him. This can be frustrating so I have decided to move him towards the back of the rectory where he will be away from the traffic we have. I am hoping he will be left alone. Miguel Moreno, the seminarian staying with us will be going back to the seminary later this month. I enjoyed his presence and will miss him when he leaves. He has been a good help to the parish and myself. We wish him well as he continues his studies towards the priesthood. On August 30th another seminarian will be moving into the rectory. His name is Oscar Tello. Oscar will be doing his pastoral year at our parish. Shortly after this he will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. As you can see there is always something going on in our parish. Another thing we need to be aware of is the poor condition of our school roof. We all use the building and we all need to help raise the funds for a new roof. The finance council has been discussing different ways to raise money for this project. When it has decided on a way it feels has the best chance of being successful this will be passed on to you by means of the bulletin and newsletter. For now please pray we don't get any leaks. These leaks can do a lot of harm and the damage can be very costly to repair.

In closing I want to thank everyone for all you have done for the parish and the friendship you have extended to me and Zena. We are not a perfect community, (and who is), but I do believe we are heading in the right direction. God is good and has done great things in our community in spite of the times we have gone against him. Let us continue to be united in our love for God and each other. Know you can always count on me to give my very best and be accountable to you. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me and will never abuse it. 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.
Pastor, St. John Berchmans Church & School

