

Bergan Forever

"Let's Do It Together"

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February 2010

Elementary building dedication...A day to rejoice

BY FR. OWEN KORTE
Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish

January 3 - It was a day to rejoice. Entering a new school with a throng of supporters had all the makings of a grand celebration. And it was that, but so much more. It was a day to give thanks.

The faith of those who have sacrificed so much was most evident that day. From the children who sang such a joyful song, "I Like It Here," to the words of Gov. Heineman, to the Epiphany Blessing of the School and the inscribing the letters for the Three Wise Men on the lintel of the Chapel doors, to the enthusiasm of parents, grandparents and members of the larger Fremont community—it was so much fun. Jerry Delaney summed it up by saying, "it's our time."

Bringing back the elementary school (now with a preschool for our 3-5 year olds) has been a journey of faith. When I looked at the issue squarely and wondered in my prayer whether this was God's way or mine, I knew instinctively that once I let the spark go there was no stopping the flame from growing. I knew very well that the young families of this parish wanted a Catholic elementary school and many others as well. They had been repeating that plea ever since I got here in 1998.

With my years of experience in Catholic Schools (O'Neill St. Mary's, Hartington Cedar Catholic with its elementary feeder schools: East, West and Holy Trinity, and finally the Elgin Schools of Pope John and St. Boniface) they saw in me their chance.

All the research and reflection told us we needed the elementary back so that we could have a feeder school for the middle and high school.

Further reflection indicated that parents yearned for the high performance and quality instruction that Catholic elementaries are known for. And the Catholic faith for-

mation in a Catholic elementary is second to none. I knew all that. But I also knew the costs. Nothing but faith told me and us that this was the way to go. We had to try.

Getting over the financial humps of the next several years will be difficult. Until we get a good and hopefully full enrollment our finances will be shaky. But the faith that I saw in the eyes of all who attended told me that I need to put all this into the hands of the God who loves us, and wants us to have a relationship with Him—that we will risk it all. This school, Archbishop Bergan Catholic, preschool through 12th, will come on line as fully operational in the fall of 2010, that's when we add the final grade to the system: fifth grade.

We have to come up with addition funding avenues to sustain this school. The alumni can be counted on to help and we just hope you will come through with the kind of help that matches the gifts you received from this school when you were here.

Enclosed in this newsletter, and every Bergan Forever, is an envelope for you to

give something back. Soon we will have our annual Phonathon.

Many of you have been so generous with your contributions. However, this year Bergan needs your help more than ever. The expenses at Bergan have increased substantially and our endowments have been weakened by the economic downturn. We need to raise \$100,000 from the alumni this year for our general fund to help keep the ship afloat. Normally we raise about \$40,000 from the alumni—this year the challenge and the need is even greater. So, in short:

1) If you have never given to Bergan, I am asking you to give \$5 for each year you have been out of high school.

2) If you have given to Bergan before I am asking that you double your gift. You can do this by making a pledge and spreading your gift over a period of time.

The need is great and real and I believe you, the alumni and benefactors, are willing to step up to the plate and make the sacrifice to keep Bergan going strong for generations to come.



Dedication held for new elementary school

Archbishop George Lucas officiated at the dedication Mass and ceremony held January 3 for the new Archbishop Bergan Elementary School. Pictured above, Archbishop Lucas is blessing a classroom filled with students, teachers, parents and supporters.

Alumni News

Parents of a daughter

Cory and Karen (Means) Zoucha of Fremont are the parents of a daughter, Savannah Arleen, born on June 22, 2009 at 8:08 p.m. at Fremont Area Medical Center. She weighed eight pounds, nine ounces and was 22 inches long.

Karen graduated from Archbishop Bergan Catholic School in 2001.

Parents of a daughter

Kurt and Melissa (Yates) Dunker of North Bend are the parents of a daughter, Betsy Lynn, born July 31, 2009. She weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces. Betsy has two sisters, Paige, 5, and Anna, 2.

Melissa is a 1993 graduate of Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.

Parents of a son

Chris and Julie (Cook) Eggen of Fremont are the parents of a son, Carter Michael, born October 19, 2009. He weighed eight pounds, 12 ounces and was 20-1/2 inches long. He joins a brother, Logan, 3.

Julie is a 1993 graduate of Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.

Parents of a son

Hudson Joseph Means, son of Ryan and Rachael Means, was born into heaven November 20, 2009 at 7:17 p.m. He weighed eight pounds, eight ounces, and was 21-1/2 inches long. Rachael was full term, her due date was November 20.

Ryan is a 1998 graduate of Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.

Knight Event 2009 a successful evening

The 2009 Knight Event, which was held in November, had net proceeds of \$112,000 for Archbishop Bergan Catholic School, according to LeAnn Hemberger, development officer. The Challenger car raffle netted \$93,000 for Bergan.

United in Marriage

Bryce Kolund and Tracey Hyda, both of Omaha, will be married February 20, 2010, at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Omaha.

Bryce is a 2002 graduate of Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.

John Nicola and Lissy Fauss were married October 3, 2009 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Fremont.

John is a 2003 graduate of Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.

Remembering our alumni

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of the deceased alumni and friends of St. Patrick's/Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.

Delores Todd died November 18, 2009. Mother of Dee (Todd) Rafferty, 1965; Judy (Todd) Culbertson, 1965; Dr. Robert Todd, 1970. Grandmother of Tyler Todd, 2005. Parent to first foreign exchange student, Luis Espinar, 1966.

Virgil Cody died November 19, 2009. Grandfather of Brittany Cody, 2005.

Hudson Joseph Means died November 20, 2009. Son of Ryan Means, 1998.

Joel A. Thury died November 30, 2009. Latin teacher at Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.

Harriet Umschied died December 3, 2009. Mother of Ron Umscheid, 1958.

Margaret Wordekemper died December 16, 2009. Mother of Michael Wordekemper, 1973; Richard Wordekemper, 1971; Bernice Rourke, 1966; Angela Rose, 1965; Linda Miller, 1976; Mary Krivohlavek, 1968; and Ann Wordekemper, 1985.

Let your classmates know where and how you are

Have you recently got married, had a child, moved, received a promotion at work or been recognized with a special honor? We want to know about it and so do your fellow classmates.

Email to Bergan Forever newsletter editor Maureen Zavadil

mozav1@gmail.com or
berganalumni@yahoo.com

God's blessings to you.

Dorothy Meints died December 21, 2009. Grandmother of Andrea Kunasek Phinney, 1987; and Tami Kunasek Jones, 1998.

Herb "Butch" Rosenbach died December 25, 2009. Father of Shawn (Rosenbach) Vetick, 1985.

Margaret Moore died December 26, 2009. Grandmother of Todd Hass, 1981; and Becky Hass, 1984.

Steven Rasmussen died January 3, 2010. Husband of Gene Lueke Rasmussen, 1963.

Della (Wolfgram) Dahlhauser died January 17, 2010. Stepmother to Judy Hanson, 1964; (Judy's husband, Rick is also a 1964 graduate).

Russell Hamilton died January 27, 2010. Father of Brian Hamilton, 1984; Grandfather of Jeff Hamilton, 2005; and Lauren Hamilton, 2006.

Jackie Marquardt died January 31, 2010. Mother of Victoria Marquardt Benne, 1961; and Connie Marquardt Keeler, 1965.

**Alumni Reunion
July 10, 2010.**

Alumni Challenge

Living The Faith Campaign update

BY GARY SCHMIDT
Development Officer

Archbishop Bergan Catholic School now offers a Catholic education for pre-school through twelfth grades (fifth grade will be added this fall). Students and teachers began their second semester January 11 in the new school building.

The "Living the Faith" Elementary School Campaign goal was \$4.6 million over a period of five years. As of January 25 we have \$4,633,131 pledged with \$2,920,421 collected. Of the money pledged \$1,712,133 is pledged from the Fremont business community, \$2,713,244 from the parish community, and \$207,753 from the non-parish alumni.

The actual cost of construction, furnishings, etc. will be between \$6.2 - \$6.5 million, therefore it is necessary to continue to increase funding for the school in order to pay the balance of debt plus interest at the end of the five years of the campaign.

The St. Patrick's/Bergan Alumni were contacted. All non-parish alumni received a letter last fall that gave an update on the construction and on the current results of the campaign. This mailing also requested that each alumnus consider a campaign pledge. The goal for the alumni part of the campaign is \$300,000.

As a way of recognizing outstanding participation in the campaign by members of any graduating class, a classroom will be named in honor of each class whose collective donations equal at least \$50,000. Each class member who makes a donation toward the total of \$50,000 from a given class will have their name acknowledged in the classroom by some permanent means not yet decided.

The class of 1978 is close to meeting the \$50,000 class challenge. They are at \$46,113 (as of January 25, 2010).

Donations of alumni who are members of St. Patrick's Parish are also counted in these totals. A total amount of the dona-

tions pledged to date (January 25) by each class is as follows: 1951 (\$18,550); 1952 (\$3,060); 1953 (\$3,300); 1954 (\$6,500); 1955 (\$311,000); 1956 (\$3,100); 1957 (\$5,500); 1958 (\$1,100); 1959 (\$200); 1960 (\$6,360); 1961 (\$4,350); 1962 (\$1,500); 1963 (\$11,575); 1964 (\$17,490); 1965 (\$9,622); 1966 (\$3,640); 1967 (\$12,321); 1968 (\$3,008); 1969 (\$24,718); 1970 (\$17,396); 1971 (\$31,540); 1972 (\$9,220); 1973 (\$30,301); 1974 (\$22,222); 1975 (\$12,642); 1976 (\$56,973); 1977 (\$111,000); 1978 (\$46,113); 1979 (\$2,300); 1980 (\$17,350); 1981 (\$21,050); 1982 (\$2,350); 1983 (\$4,202); 1984 (\$12,420); 1985 (\$16,440); 1986 (\$14,800); 1987 (\$360); 1988 (\$8,500); 1989 (\$2,480); 1990 (\$6,700); 1991 (\$700); 1992 (\$0); 1993 (\$1,835); 1994 (\$1,550); 1995 (\$1,600); 1996 (\$3,600); 1997 (\$0); 1998 (\$4,020);

1999 (\$0); 2000 (\$0); 2001 (\$0); 2002 (\$20); 2003 (\$0); 2004 (\$320); 2005 (\$0); 2006 (\$0); 2007 (\$0); 2008 (\$0); 2009 (\$0). Total alumni giving to the LTF Campaign is \$906,898.

Thank you to all who have given to the Living the Faith Campaign. Your continued support of Archbishop Bergan Catholic School is appreciated.

Bergan to purchase bus

Archbishop Bergan Catholic School needs to purchase a new bus. According to Scott Painter, athletic director, the 72-passenger 2011 International school bus will cost approximately \$82,000.

For more information or to make a donation contact Painter at: berganad@yahoo.com; 545 E. 4th Street, Fremont; or phone 721-9683.

Bergan Elementary Wish List

A "Wish List" booklet was created a few months ago for the new Bergan Elementary school building. To donate fixtures to the new school contact LeAnn Hemberger, 721-1846, ext. 34; email: leann.hemberger@hotmail.com

Category	Total Value	Collected	Balance
Classroom	\$31,180.00	\$2,500.00	\$28,680.00
* Technology	\$15,550.00	\$0.00	\$15,550.00
Library	\$15,320.00	\$1,880.00	\$13,440.00
Office	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 FUNDED
Kitchen	\$5,600.00	\$1,040.00	\$4,560.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Playground	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Outdoor Classroom	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Music	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Landscapping	\$16,500.00	\$1,800.00	\$14,700.00
Chapel	\$12,000.00	\$9,838.00	\$2,162.00
Gymnasium	\$30,930.00	\$0.00	\$30,930.00
Mary's Garden	\$7,950.00	\$7,950.00	\$0.00 FUNDED
	\$162,030.00	\$26,008.00	\$136,022.00

* Technology equipment in the "Wish List booklet" included: SMARTBoards and projectors. These fixtures were in addition to the Library/Computer Challenge held in October. Funds from the Library/Computer Challenge furnished computers in the new computer lab.

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Archbishop Bergan Catholic School

Now Enrolling Preschool through 12th grades

For more information on grades 6-12, call the high school office at 721-9683 or email: berganrecruitment@yahoo.com for tour information, to begin registration and enrollment or to be included on our event mailing list.



For more information for preschool through 5th grade, call the elementary school office at 721-9766 or email: berganelementary@yahoo.com

Address Corrections

If you need to update your contact information (address, phone numbers, emails), please send to: Archbishop Bergan Catholic School, Alumni Office, 422 E. 4th Street Fremont, NE 68748 or email: berganalumni@yahoo.com

Newsletter deadline

Deadline for the April issue will be March 2. The Bergan Forever newsletter is published every other month. To submit news or photos send to: Maureen Zavadil, editor, mozav1@gmail.com

**May God bless you
and your family!**