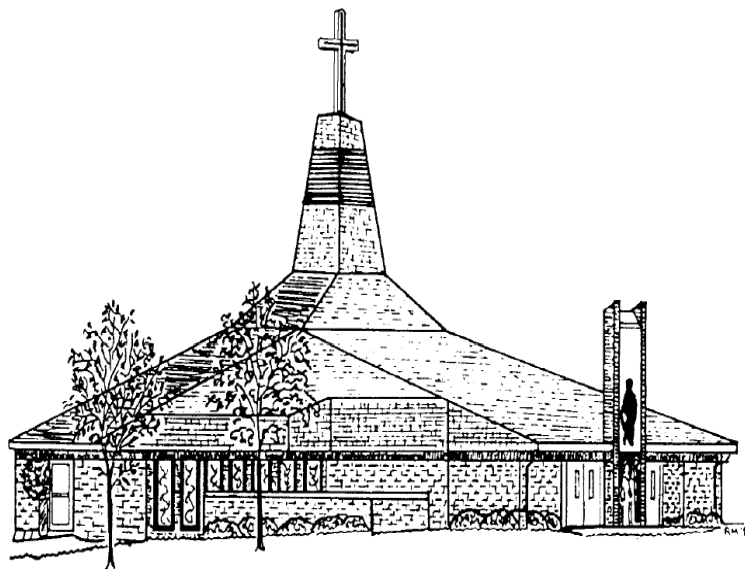


**St. Joseph Catholic Church
1790 Fourteenth Street
Marion, Iowa 52302**



**2009-2010
Annual Report**

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Pastor's Introduction
By Fr. John Gossman

This parish report is our opportunity as staff, parish council and committees to give you the status of our parish community from July 2009 to July 2010. It is impossible to give you all the details of parish activities, yet we intend to give you an overview of our accomplishments over the last fiscal year (July '09 to July '10).

Sacraments are the center of our parish life. Sunday celebration of the Eucharist (the center of our faith lives) is strong. We have greater participation by adults and youth in the liturgical ministries and the worship aid helps us to participate fully in our Eucharistic Celebration. Our Sunday Mass attendance had a slight decline again this year (each year in October we have a count of the number of people at each Sunday liturgy).

Sacramentally, we have had:

- 54 Infant/children Baptisms
- 1 Adult Baptism
- 4 Baptized Christians received into full Communion and confirmed
- 78 First Communions and First Reconciliations
- 64 Confirmations of youth
- 14 Marriages at St. Joseph Parish and 16 Marriage preparations for marriages that took place in other parishes
- 27 Funerals

Details of all the committees' activities will be available within this report. We are developing and growing in our ministry to our parish community. "The Alpha Journey" continues to be very successful. The Spiritual Life Committee continues to find ways and materials to develop spirituality within our parish and homes. We will continue to have opportunities to explore and discern spiritual gifts by participating in a gift discernment process. Education remains strong both in religious education and in our school. Our Social Concerns Committee continues to reach out to the needy in our community and world. Community Life offers opportunities to build community. The finances of our parish continue to improve as we continue to support a good staff, liturgy, spirituality, education, and community life. We were able to reduce our debt in the past fiscal year. Our endowment fund, which has suffered because of the bad financial years, is recovering as the economy recovers. The blue envelope enabled us to accomplish much needed repairs and improvements to our parish buildings and grounds.

Starting July '10 we will be restructuring some of the parish organization. The Parish council will become the Pastoral Council. Emphasis will change from administration to planning and visioning. A Faith Formation Commission will be new in our parish committee. All formation, from newborn to senior citizen, will be directed by the Faith Formation Commission. The School Board will be a separate committee that now will be a subcommittee of the Faith Formation Commission.

The upcoming year will be an exciting year for us. We have a great opportunity to grow as a parish community. Special thanks to all who serve and support our parish community as we grow in faith.

Please take time to read this report.

Pastor's Report
By Fr. John

The center of my life is presiding at the Sunday Eucharist, celebrating Sacraments and preaching.

I am blessed by God to be able to share God's grace with all of you. Everyday I am enriched and humbled by the loving presence of Jesus that I experience in the midst of this community.

The parish staff here is professional, hard working and faith-filled. Working with them is enriching and energizing. Everyday I thank God for the blessing that I have received in working with our parish staff. Mary Hauschildt has enriched our ministry to the elderly, sick and the homebound. Richard Stanaway retired as of July 1. Bonnie Bluml will be our new music coordinator. Kelly Ward had to resign as youth minister because of financial concern. Megan Gann has filled in for her since the end of February. We have hired her as our youth minister. Rodney Bluml will be director of faith formation in our parish community. Ruth Ard has retired. Liz Lockhart will now be the coordinator of our youth education; her title will be coordinator of youth formation. Judy Ramsey will become full time as she adds First Communion and First Reconciliation to her ministry. Joann Starr was hired as their administrative assistant. Kathy Walz will be our new principal since Tony Voss has taken a job elsewhere. The faith formation of our youth is now shared with our new parish staff members under the direction of the Faith Formation Commission.

As Dean of the Cedar Rapids Deanery, I have attended many meetings with Msgr. Bleich and representatives from every parish in our deanery. We have developed a structure that will allow our deanery to plan for the future. The parish leadership presented our plan to Archbishop Hanus. He will make the ultimate decisions on priest placements and the parishes that will have pastoral administrators instead of a priest as a pastor. Planning is a time for sacrifice and growth. I pray that we will all grow in our faith because of this planning. Father Rod and I will continue to be sacramental priests for Springville and Mount Vernon. Our ministry to other parishes will most likely become the norm in the future.

Please keep our parish community in your prayers.

God bless you for your support and shared faith.

Associate Pastor's Report

By Father Rodney Allers

Personal

I have enjoyed another year getting to know the community of St. Joseph. We are a large faith community that is comprised of individual stories. Each story is valuable, each story is different, and each story represents the engagement of God with individuals and with us collectively as a faith community; the Body of Christ. A vibrant reminder of the words we hear every time we celebrate Eucharist together, that what Christ has done and is doing is for us individually, but also, for humanity collectively.

Sacraments

Sacraments are tangible events. They help us realize that God is present to the community. God himself became part of His creation. This should remind us that even though our everyday lives may seem ordinary from time to time, so is the water that He uses to incorporate us into his Mystical Body, the wheat and water that make up the bread become his real presence, the olive oil that anoints us at different times in our lives for healing or strengthening, these are all common and are used in a true encounter with God, not for the sake of ourselves but for us to become sacramental to the world. Sacramental in our everyday lives, in the common actions of care for children, elderly, homebound, needy, and so many others. Our common-ness has the ability to change opinions, to influence bosses and co-workers, to build one another up, to rejoice and to mourn together.

Liturgy

Liturgy is where we come together to rejoice, to be fed, to allow ourselves to grow in the likeness of Christ. We were blessed for many years to have Richard Stanaway as our Coordinator of Music Ministry and we wish him nothing but the best as he enters into retirement and time with his family. We also rejoice in the new, the gifts and talents that Bonnie Bluml will bring to the St. Joseph family. After a lengthy search our search committee hired Bonnie and we look forward to working with her.

We continue to struggle with the perennial issue of ministers showing up for their scheduled ministry. Communication tools are in the work to try to help ministers find replacements when they are unable to meet their commitments.

We have enjoyed vibrant liturgies. It is fair to expect that we will continue to do so.

Social Justice

Our Social Justice committee has been dedicated to trying to involve the parish in their work. They have also expressed a desire to help the parish understand the Church's teaching on Social Justice. One step that has been taken is the weekly food drive. This provides an opportunity to help us grow in our understanding of Eucharist, that the offertory is a time when we offer everything we have; it is a tangible connection to a life of stewardship.

We, as a parish, through the work of the Social Justice Committee have continued our work of tithing back into the parish community. We were able this year to give back to our community, in the form of grants, the sum of \$41,000. This is truly remarkable and the Social Justice Committee has expressed a desire to help make us more aware of where those funds go and who they help, so keep your eyes open!

Finally, you may have noticed that we have adopted the name Social Justice Committee instead of Social Concerns. This change represents a change on the diocesan level to help us understand that Justice in everyday life is not an add-on to our faith, but a response that is part and parcel of the Christian life.

Spiritual Ministry by Mary Hauschildt

I recently read the following quote from Angeles Arrien book entitled, *The Second Half of Life*. "As we look back on our lives, we realize that the harvest of youth is achievement, the harvest of middle age is perspective, and the harvest of old age is wisdom." As I conclude my second year as pastoral minister, I have been richly blessed by all ages of parishioners. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

This past year has been filled with many blessings in all areas of my responsibilities. I have continued to work with our homebound (making sure they receive communion at their homes and assigning parishioners to bring it to them), visiting our parish seniors (75 and older), visiting the hospitals on Fridays followed by a phone call/visit after returning to their home, and visiting all parishioners with a significant loss followed by a phone call throughout the year.

New this year was the privilege of lending a hand with the Christmas Giving Project, teaming up some of our seniors as prayer partners with school classrooms, working with the prayer shawl ministry by delivering prayer shawls to our parishioners, teaming up with Debbie Aasen to teach a Successful Living with Chronic Conditions class, and arranging for Sr. Joann Dehmer from Loyola to come this past April to lead parish seniors on a retreat entitled Aging - All Ready. Almost 80 parishioners were in attendance.

The on-going ministry of sending cards on behalf of the staff/parish involves sending out approximately 60-70 pieces of mail each month. These cards are sent out to our seniors on their 70 + birthdays, significant anniversaries to all parishioners, sympathy to those experiencing loss, and also remembering those with loss on the first anniversary of the death.

The MOMS program continues to flourish under the leadership team of eight young women who meet with me once a month to plan activities for all women of the parish. This year the

25th group of women went through the eight week program here at St. Joseph Parish which was started in 1996. In addition to the traditional yearly activities that we provide for all women of the parish, we also added an evening entitled Advent by Candlelight, held a movie evening, and offered a Lenten Retreat.

Women's Connection, a spiritual support/friendship group for widows of our parish, continues also to thrive and grow. Memorable activities that we did this year were the following: a remembrance prayer service for husbands, a walk at Noelridge Park, praying the rosary together in October, hosting the All Soul's parish Mass reception, a Mardi Gras celebration, a trip to the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, and an afternoon at Culver's Greenhouse with a presentation. The Widowers group, started last June, continues to meet also each month and often finds them enjoying a meal, an evening of cards, or watching sports together.

Lastly, the Discernment of Charism Program continues to be offered to all parishioners. Over 100 Parishioners have experience this opportunity so far. Watch for details in the bulletin for the next offering during the months of December 2010 - February 2011. Patty Zessin-Ruble and Jean McNamara were trained as new interviewers to the team. This opportunity continues to provide parishioners with a greater understanding as to what they are called to do. It is exciting to watch them serve our parish and community.

Adult Formation By Rodney Bluml

About forty five parishioners engaged in a discernment process for lifting up spiritual gifts/*charisms* this past year, bringing the total number to about 160 since the launch of the program in 2007. The Siena Institute, hired by the Archdiocese of Dubuque, trained St. Joe parishioners Jean McNamara and Patti Zessin to be interviewers for the Discerning Charisms; Living the Mission program. They subsequently joined Clark White, Sharon Reilly, Theresa Trenary, Barb Celichowski, Judy Ramsey, Rodney Bluml and Mary Hauschildt in that role. The twelve week seminar, interview, small group discernment cycle was offered in three different formats between December and February in order to accommodate more people's schedules. Others served as support team: Victoria Brawner, Dennis and Kim Ternes, Becky Gassman, and Virginia Fleming.

The year-round parish RCIA process brought 2 adults to baptism at Easter, and led 7 adults to full communion with the Catholic Church. The RCIA process meets about forty-six times a year for three to four hours. About seventy people assist in the process as sponsors, godparents, catechists, hospitality ministers, and Seder Meal hosts. The parish also received one adult into full initiation through the sacrament of confirmation.

The parish offered the St. Joseph Alpha Journey for the fourth time in 2009. Thirty-two participants met twelve Thursdays for dinner, sung worship, a presentation on a basic tenant of faith, and small group discussion. A table of past participants gathered simultaneously in their own group and called themselves, "Alpha Beta." The interface between the first time participants and the returnees was well received; we intend to include it again in 2010. The participants also attended an overnight retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on Oct. 17/18. The program is an

evangelization effort designed to help people grow stronger and more comfortable in their relationship with Holy Spirit, Christ, and the Church. Vicki Stewart coordinated the weekly meals which were provided by a variety of parishioners. Mary Earlene Lewis coordinated the prayer team, and Janell Wickman coordinated the child care. Over 100 other parishioners served in support roles including preparing and serving meals, prayer team, retreat team, music ministry, and weekly child care.

Scripture study is held year round at St. Joseph. Last year the groups met about forty-eight weeks. One third of the sessions were Lectionary study of the upcoming weekend readings. The remaining weeks were split between studies of *The Catholic Letters*, and *Praying the Scriptures*, using the Little Rock Scripture Study resource out of Liturgical Press. Weekly guides were provided to assist with the study. We offer the two regular studies on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings for 2-2.5 hours. The average attendance for these two sessions combined is thirty-four people.

We had a unique opportunity this past Lent to be a pilot parish for a new prayer process called *visio divina*. For four weeks of Lent, participants were invited to pray with original art pieces (called illuminations) taken from the newly released St. John's Bible that related to the upcoming Sunday's scripture readings. The most striking comment heard at the end of a session was: "When is the last time you spent an hour really looking at a picture or piece of art? Wasn't that amazing?!!" About thirty-five people enjoyed this special opportunity each week.

A number of adult education offerings were placed before the parish this Lent: a conversation based on the book "the Shack" was facilitated by Clark White. Frs. John and Rod presented Saturday morning modules on "Developing your skill to listen to God" and "Teach Me to Pray," respectively. Mary Kaufmann offered weekly Ignatian study and spiritual direction. Ruth Ard, DRE, coordinated weekly soup luncheons on Fridays that featured a staff member or parishioner speaking on a variety of topics from the art of letter writing to being prodigal with our love. Dr. David Ard and Pastoral Associate Rodney Bluml led sessions after all Masses on four consecutive weekends in which they explored with participants the stories and lessons contained in the faceted-glass windows of the church. Lastly, the parish was able to host The Living Last Supper for the second consecutive year. We saw new faces at these formation events and hope they begin a new era of adult learning in the areas of faith.

Our twenty-three wedding sponsor couples worked to prepare nine couples for Catholic marriage; this is down twenty from just a few years ago. This commitment asks them to meet four to five times for about two hours with their couple and then to attempt some post-marriage follow-up in the first year.

Close to two dozen parishioners attended Christian Experience Weekends (CEWs) as candidates or team members.

A Men of Action Prayer Group continues to meet weekly on Thursdays at 6:00 a.m. in the church hall. John Kaufmann has been facilitating that group in prayer, meditation before the Blessed Sacrament, accountability sharing, and study. "This year, the group studied Book 1: "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas Kempis
Book 2: "Be a Man" by Fr. Larry Richards reading and discussing one chapter a week."

Eleven parishioners are in the three year Lay Formation program through the Archdiocese. At the end of this process, participants are asked to bring their growth in spirituality to service within the parish and the world. For example, our most recent graduate,

Brian A'Hearn, has been a lay leader on CEW and has recently joined the teaching team for RCIA in addition to being a faithful husband, son and father.

Young Adult Ministry (20 & 30 somethings)
by Rodney Bluml

This is the second year of St. Joseph Parish's concerted outreach to the young adults within the community. Typically, this group includes those who are 21 – 39 years old, married, single, and with or without children. The efforts this year were focused on building community through social gatherings, prayer opportunities, and a few field trips.

Specifically, the every other Sunday evening gatherings in the St. Joseph Room drew an average of twelve people. The activities varied each time and included sharing meals, *lectio divina* (holy reading) on scripture followed by conversation; study of hot-button issues; leading an activity night at Winslow House Care Center; walks for ice-cream; recitation of the rosary; watching movies; playing games; pot-lucks, barbeques, pumpkin carving, a progressive dinner, and plenty of refreshments.

In May, twelve young adults camped for a weekend at Pinicon Ridge Park and ten others joined them during the day for pudgy pie making, geocaching, and cranking on the croquet mallets.

In Lent, young adults participated in a 30-Hour Fast during which time Theresa Alt helped coordinate a six hour job rearranging the used doors at the Habitat ReStore in Hiawatha. The group returned to the church in order to attend Mass and then end the fast with a soup supper, donating the equivalent money of skipped meals for future projects. The group also created and led the Stations of the Cross one Friday evening under the creative leadership of Theresa Neff. On Good Friday, some of the YAM members prayed the "silent stations of the cross" in Squaw Creek Park as a soft rain helped them gain visceral insight into the story of The Passion.

An average of 16 of our parish young adults participated in the two, four-week sessions of Theology on Tap offered in the Cedar Rapids area this year. Scott Wegener and Megan and Wendell Gan served on the Core Planning Team.

These are but a few of the many good works and gatherings of our faith-filled young adults. Our parish mission is to spiritually support this incredibly resourceful group as they participate in many civic and cultural venues, bringing the presence of God into the world. Go to our parish website to see upcoming activities and plan to join us.

Youth Ministry
By Megan Gan

Megan Gan began as Coordinator of Youth Ministry on July 1, 2010.

The Youth Ministry program at St. Joseph continues to grow. Our high school students participate in the Catalyst youth group. Any St. Joseph parish member grades 9-12 are welcome

to attend and participate in Catalyst events. Catalyst meets several times each month for both formal and informal gatherings focusing on social, spiritual and service opportunities. A high school Youth Commission was re-established this past year to provide leadership to the youth ministry programs. Made up of 7 high school youth representing grades 10-12 and both Xavier and public high schools, these students met on a monthly basis to plan and organize events for both the high school and middle school youth groups. The Youth Commission members exhibited strong leadership skills while assisting with the monthly middle school youth events.

Alliance, our 7th and 8th grade youth group, met monthly throughout the year. The goal of the 7th and 8th grade events is to provide social opportunities to early teens so they can begin to build relationships with a common faith support. Alliance events are high energy and filled with fun, laughter and enthusiasm. An average of 30 young people attends the events each month. The Alliance teens have also served as volunteers during the Ash Wednesday Prayer service, weekly liturgies and Vacation Bible School.

The youth from St. Joseph continue to participate in city-wide and archdiocesan events, including a trip to the Lost Island Waterpark in Waterloo, a Middle School Youth Rally held last fall, here at St. Joes and a High School Youth Rally.

Confirmation Ministry By Judy Ramsey

Christ Reigns! The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the hearts of our young people here in St. Joseph Parish. Our 2009-2010 year was filled with excitement. The major highlights were NCYC and our Confirmation Retreat. The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is a bi-annual nationally sponsored event for Catholic teens. It was held in Kansas City this year with attendance reaching 22,000. Our three day conference consisted of concerts, speakers, breakout sessions, witness talks, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration and Mass.

Twenty five young people attended from our parish and we combined with other parishes from the Arch Diocese of Dubuque to be the largest traveling delegation in the country with 900 teens present. We were happy to wear our purple shirts and sit together at daily mass where Archbishop Hanus celebrated. Our young people sent a strong message to the bishops across the nation that the power of the Lord is strong in Iowa. It was empowering to see the pride our kids exhibited in their faith. The next NCYC will be in November 2011 in Indianapolis. For this year, we look forward to our Archdiocesan Youth Rally in Waterloo this November. Our Confirmation Class this year consisted of 54 members: 22 female, 32 male. They were led by wonderful adults who graciously shared their faith. Miriam Ard and Matt Janachek, Nicole Reck, Judy Scott and Ann Weber- Holdgrafer, Nancy Grief and Michele Richers, Terry and Carla Reilly and Kent Sodawasser, Mary Solberg, Lori Vander Velden. Our program would fall down if we did not have wonderful caring adult mentors to guide our teens. As directed by the Archdiocese, our candidates met in small faith sharing groups, completed service hours, and went on retreat. Our advent giving project was a huge success with the help of the parish. We were able to provide for the many needs of seven area families. Utilizing the

generous financial donations of our parishioners along with their own donations our candidates enjoyed shopping for their families.

Our retreat was held at Camp Wapsie in late January. Lead by adults and an amazing team of high school Seniors and Juniors, the candidates allowed themselves to settle into the spirit of the weekend and let God speak to them. I am humbled each year witnessing the faces of those who have just heard God speaks to them.

Our teen team truly acted as apostles empowering new disciples. Tyler Raymond, Madelynne Lockhart, Clare Starr, Whitney Rissi, Emma Drtina, Hannah Konzen, Allison Bries, Megan Talley, Meg Kelly, and Amanda Ickes made the weekend come alive for our candidates.

Our Confirmation Liturgy was celebrated in May with Msgr. Bleich as our celebrant. We are excited to watch as this group takes their light into the world bringing about God's kingdom.

Music Ministries **By Richard Stanaway**

Music ministry serves the entire congregation of St. Joseph's parish. The weekend liturgies serve as the starting point for this ministry. As coordinator of music ministries, I select the music for the liturgies, after careful study of the readings for the weekend masses. I also coordinate a schedule of cantors, choirs and accompanists for all weekend masses; assemble books for the musicians to use, and rehearse with musicians in preparation for the weekend masses. Members of the parish serve as the cantors, accompanists, and choir members. They serve by helping lead the congregation in singing praises and prayers to our lord. These groups also provide music for special masses during the advent, Christmas, Lenten and Easter seasons.

I also meet with all couples planning a wedding at st. Joseph church helping them select the music and musicians for their wedding. I keep a listing of appropriate music for the wedding ceremonies. Other duties that I have are to attend staff meetings and liturgy function committee meetings; prepare in-service and resources for church musicians, maintain the music budget and current licensing for music printing and to recruit music ministry members.

The music program at st. Josephs' continues to grow. I appreciate so much the volunteer musicians who take part in the music ministry of St. Joseph parish. After much thought and prayer, I decided to retire at the end of my current contract which ended June 30, 2010. I have enjoyed working with all different aspects of the music ministry of St. Josephs and I will miss the people of St. Josephs very much. I am truly looking forward to spending more time with my family in my retirement.

Parish Council Introduction **By Bruce Takes**

The Parish Council consists of ten members supporting six committees and the Board of Education plus Fr. John Gossman. Bruce Takes is the chair. The committees (and their liaisons) are: Finance and Administration (Jeff Peters and Juergen Bruckner), Liturgy (Michele Mains), Spiritual Life (George Cleppe), Community Life (Paula Ladage), Deanery Council (Bob Celichowski), Social Concerns (Steve Determan) and Board of Education (Doug Brock). In addition Bruce Takes supports the Financial Development Subcommittee. Each of these committees has its own focus to help provide stewardship opportunities to parishioners. Their activities and accomplishments are included as separate reports.

We continue to work on our parish goals that were set in place in 2006. They are:

- To deepen the understanding of Stewardship so that all members may know and share their gifts
- To increase participation of the adult community in education and faith formation opportunities
- To increase the number of parishioners participating in spiritual, social, and volunteering opportunities to foster a more engaged community.

This year introduced the Model Constitution for Pastoral Councils. The operation of the pastoral council under the new guidelines/constitution will be on a consensus basis more than in the past. The over-arching guidance for the Council is our Parish Mission Statement, which is: "We are a Catholic Christian Community seeking to be and to form loving disciples of Jesus the Christ through the word, service, and worship." The St. Joseph Pastoral Council will work toward becoming a visionary body, rather than a functionary body. Generate more active participation by more members of the parish. The various parish committees will be more of the functionary body. St. Joseph Parish can support the Model Constitution and Bylaws as given to us by the Archdiocese. Pastoral Council and Faith Formation Commission will begin meetings with 15 minutes of prayer and reflection. We consider prayer to be a great tool to guide us in our decisions and plans. There will be one representative on the Pastoral Council from each of the following: the Stewardship Committee, the Finance Council, Faith Formation Commission, Parish Life, Social Justice, and Liturgy Committees. There will be dialogue between the Pastoral Council and the various parish committees. Council members will be liaisons to the various committees, taking the direction of the Pastoral Council to each committee. However, the main job of a Pastoral Council person is that of the Pastoral Council; it is not to be chair of his respective parish committee. But the Council person can challenge his committee to greater involvement and action.

Our endowment fund is growing, supporting both the much needed school repairs and education enrichment for our leadership. The fund is always looking to grow larger so please keep this in mind when extra money becomes available. Because of what is taking place in the stock market it was not as great a source of income as it had been in previous years. The endowment fund just gives the parish the income and does not touch the principal. Your contribution will generate earnings for many years to come, providing on a long-term basis for the success of our parish

community. To learn more about the Endowment Fund visit the St. Joseph Parish website (www.stjoesmarion.4lpi.com) or call the parish office.

Finance and Administration Committee **By Juergen Bruckner**

The committee (and its focus areas) consists of Jeff Peters and Erwin Froehlich (Budgeting), Vincent Rodriguez and Maryann Petesich (Fundraising), Theresa Lynch, (Administration Liaison), Douglas Boe (St Joseph Board of Education), Juergen Buckner (Buildings and Grounds), and Father Gossman. We meet on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00 to at most 7:30 PM. We can always use a few more good parishioners.

We ended 2009-2010 with an operating budget balance of about \$5400 due to the generosity of responsible parishioners and watchful execution by the parish staff to hold costs at a minimum and delay expenses in light of the downturn experienced from the recession. This will allow us to reduce our debt to the diocese, incurred during previous deficit spending years, by \$16,000 using prior year funds held in reserve to ensure that this year's budget could be met. After this payment, our archdiocesan debt will be down to \$99,000. .

Results of these focus areas are summarized below:

Fund Raising

We had two events last fiscal year (which runs from July to June). Jake Weaver and Tom Coppa again led a golf outing in August 2009. With outside sponsorship and your continued support, this fundraiser continues to grow. The bowling FUNdraiser, held in Spring under the leadership of Vince Rodriguez, had a full complement of bowlers where the fellowship is large.

Bricks and Mortar

We use the Bricks and Mortar funds to pay for unscheduled maintenance on our aging facility. Our major expense this year was again cutting out and repaving the soft spots in our parking lot. We hope that this will extend the life of the asphalt and avoid a costly resurface project. We again had an outside water main break, this time leading to the school, but due to volunteer labor, the costs were limited to material costs.

We finished the year with a Bricks and Mortar fund balance of \$18,000. This allowed us to replace a rotten window and a delaminated rear door in the rectory and the four garage doors in the church complex (the bottom two sections were so soft that the bolts in the door hinges pulled through the masonite exterior). We also clad the soffits and replaced the broken Plexiglas panes covering the stained glass windows. Have you noticed the flower beds around the church and the newly stained main entry doors? Thanks to volunteers the costs were limited to material costs.

Next on the list is to improve the look of the church interior. The entry ways are badly stained and the carpet in the communion area is torn. We are looking at tiling these areas using the Mary Ashby bequest. Renovation of the area under the pews and altar will require a concentrated fundraising effort. Are there any volunteers to lead this effort?

Administrative

Terry Lynch assisted Fr. Gossman in providing human services support to the administration staff.

Budgeting

This year's and next year's proposed budgets are shown below. Next year's budget represents a 3 % increase over this year's income. A major change is the Faith Formation Commission which has absorbed many functions previously under the parish and now maintains its own budget (shown below under the old Adult Ed/Spiritual Life budget). A one for one transfer was made from all the previous accounts to the new commission.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>09-10 Budget</u>	<u>09-10 Actual</u>	<u>10-11 Budget</u>
Budgeted Envelopes	\$1,320,022	\$1,266,866	\$1,301,408
Sacramental Offerings	\$5,100	\$5,485	\$5,000
Fundraisers	\$7,000	\$5,046	\$4,500
Donations	0	\$5,558	0
Other (Bulletin, Rental)	\$5,950	\$7,048	\$5,992
Exchange Funds	\$19,950	\$57,842	\$17,928
Support from St. Isidore and St. John	\$10,680	\$9,781	\$10,670
(Operating Income Subtotal)	(\$1,368,702)	(\$1,357,626)	(\$1,345,498)
Bricks and Mortar	<u>\$52,275</u>	<u>\$50,277</u>	<u>\$46,252</u>
Total Income	\$1,420,977	\$1,407,903	\$1,391,750
Parish Administration			
(Priest & Pastoral Associates)	\$179,948	\$179,350	\$73,456
Parish Life			
Grade School Subsidy	\$591,721	\$591,721	\$568,052
Religious Ed Subsidy	\$68,420	\$68,420	\$60,684
Adult Ed/Spiritual Life Subsidy	\$17,000	\$16,998	\$148,295
Xavier High Subsidy	\$149,045	\$149,045	\$157,494
Youth/Relief	\$13,500	\$8,578	\$7,500
Music, Sanctuary etc.	\$28,000	\$21,642	\$22,100
(Subtotal)	(\$867,486)	(\$856,404)	(\$965,125)
Parish Administration	\$114,891	\$103,471	\$111,048
Operation and Maintenance			
Of Parish Facilities	\$53,044	\$46,586	\$61,894
Fixed Charges			
Diocesan Assessments	\$22,500	\$23,768	\$22,550
Insurance	\$15,000	\$16,206	\$15,900
Regional Assessment	\$6,300	\$5,763	\$6,300
Lay Benefits	\$41,039	\$36,670	\$23,470
Interest	\$8,500	\$2,131	\$1,800
Debt Reduction	[\$2,000]		[\$39]

(Subtotal)	(\$94,039)	(\$84,538)	(\$70,060)
Exchange Funds	\$13,600	\$40,187	\$18,168
Social Action	<u>\$44,335</u>	\$41,681	<u>\$46,748</u>
(Operating Expense Subtotal)	(\$1,344,432)	(\$1,352,217)	(\$1,345,499)
Building Improvements	\$52,275	\$32,332	\$46,252
Total Expenses	\$1,420,918	\$1,384,549	\$1,391,751

Items in brackets are obligations to be carried over into next year.

Weekly Offering

Please review your weekly offering to see how much we share God's gifts to us. We have tried to set a Judeo-Christian example by increasing our outreach this year from 4.4% to 4.7% with a goal to reach 5% the following year. We have purposely done this gradually so as not to overly upset our normal income and expenses during this "recession" but also to provide additional relief to those who lost their jobs during this "depression". If the 1000 St. Joseph giving families increased their support by \$1/week or \$5/month on the average, we can meet this challenge with little individual sacrifice.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Breakdown of Funds by amount Range for Funds: (7/01/2009 – 6/30/2010)

<u>Amount Given</u>	<u>Number of Contributors</u>	<u>Percentage of Contributors</u>	<u>Total Amount Given</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Amount Given</u>
0.00 - 0.00	763	38.52%	\$0.00	0.00%
0.01 - 25.00	65	3.28%	\$1,077.00	0.08%
25.01 - 50.00	61	3.08%	\$2,436.00	0.19%
50.01 - 75.00	31	1.56%	\$1,997.55	0.16%
75.01 - 100.00	45	2.27%	\$4,179.00	0.33%
100.01 - 200.00	95	4.80%	\$15,130.92	1.18%
200.01 - 300.00	101	5.10%	\$25,863.55	2.02%
300.01 - 400.00	81	4.09%	\$28,708.50	2.24%
400.01 - 500.00	68	3.43%	\$31,382.41	2.45%
500.01 - 600.00	93	4.69%	\$51,835.00	4.05%
600.01 - 700.00	47	2.37%	\$30,778.32	2.40%
700.01 - 800.00	40	2.02%	\$30,371.65	2.37%
800.01 - 900.00	34	1.72%	\$29,128.87	2.27%
900.01 - 1000.00	41	2.07%	\$39,104.00	3.05%
1000.01 - 1500.00	159	8.03%	\$197,384.00	15.41%
1500.01 - 2000.00	89	4.49%	\$156,605.83	12.22%
2000.01 - 2500.00	50	2.52%	\$112,757.33	8.80%
2500.01 - 3000.00	32	1.62%	\$88,240.07	6.89%
3000.01 - 3500.00	26	1.31%	\$84,795.20	6.62%
3500.01 - 4000.00	10	0.50%	\$36,875.00	2.88%
4000.01 - 4500.00	12	0.61%	\$50,755.00	3.96%
4500.01 - 5000.00	8	0.40%	\$38,230.00	2.98%
5000.01 - 10000.00	26	1.31%	\$174,552.88	13.63%
10000.01 - 15000.00	3	0.15%	\$33,318.69	2.60%
15000.01 - 20000.00	1	0.05%	\$15,550.00	1.21%
20000.01 - 10,000,000	0	0.00%	\$0.00	0.00%
Total:	1981		\$1,281,056.77	

Average contribution of those giving = \$1,051.77

Average contribution of all families = \$ 646.67

Note: The total amounts given include additional gifts, but not credits or non-cash.

A summary of the weekly budget offerings for last year is shown below. Some care must be exercised when looking at the data. While we have about 2000 families in our books, about 1/2 are not active members giving very little and perhaps attending church infrequently. By and large about 1/3 of the parish families provide 90% of the parish funds. The remaining 1/3 provide less than \$10/week. This is not meant for us to judge others but, as Christ always admonished, to judge ourselves whether we are doing enough to spread the gospel and help those less fortunate than we are.

Let me close by thanking you again for your continued support in meeting St. Joseph's financial commitments.

**Financial Development Committee
By Bruce Takes**

The June 2009 to May 2010 Financial Development Committee is made up of members, Bob Anderson, Bruce Takes, Father Gossman, Dave Bowen, Mark Ahlers, Ken Bauer, Erwin Froehlich, Michelle Schaffer, and Sean Rice.

The Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant off Collins Road.

This year Michelle Schaffer is leading the committee as chairman. Erwin Froehlich is vice chair and provides minutes from each meeting. Ken Bauer is the representative from the School Board, and Bruce Takes is the representative from the parish council. Sean Rice has joined the committee. We thank everyone for their service and stewardship.

The Financial Report was presented in June of 2009 as follows:

A. Archdiocese Endowment Fund:

Archdiocese Endowment Fund	\$ 350,535.44
Loan	\$ 9,287.61
Holding Account (Transfer to Endowment)	<u>\$ 325.00</u>
Endowment Sub-Total	\$ 360,148.05
May08/09 & Nov. 2008 Investment Loss Recoup	<u>\$ 126,387.58</u>
Endowment - Total	\$ 486,535.63
Holding Account (No transfer to Endowment)	\$ 61,749.43

B. Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation Fund:

GCRCF Account Balance (April report)	\$ 5,092.18
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The Financial Report was presented in May of 2010 as follows:

A. Archdiocese Endowment Fund:

Archdiocese Endowment Fund	\$ 458,331.23
Loan	\$ 9,287.61
Contributions	\$ 50.00
Holding Account (Transfer to Endowment)	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

Endowment Sub-Total	\$ 467,668.83
Investment Loss to be Recouped	<u>\$ 36,332.50</u>
Endowment - Total	\$ 504,001.33
Holding Account (No transfer to Endowment)	\$ 6,261.15*

*Includes \$4,839.11 available for parish needs

B. Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation Fund:

GCRCF Account Balance (as of 4/30/10)	\$ 7,604.09
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Endowment Fund Activity from June 2009 to End of May 2010

Endowment Fund A

St. Joseph Parish Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund received in donations and memorials \$17,456.87 for the last fiscal year.

The Endowment Fund had an investment gain of \$90,005.08 for the last fiscal year.

The Endowment Fund Investment gains recovered \$90,055.08 from previous losses.

June 2009 Investment Loss to be Recouped	<u>\$ 126,387.58</u>
May 2010 Investment Loss to be Recouped	<u>\$ 36,332.50</u>
Total amount Recouped	\$ 90,055.08

Endowment Fund B

St. Joseph's Parish of Marion Agency Friends Fund

This fund was formed in December of 2008 with contributions of \$4,000

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation reports;

March 2009 report	\$5,092.18
March 2010 report	<u>\$7,533.20</u>
Total balance increase of	\$2,441.02

The committee reviewed a fund requests from Fr. John and Fr. Rod to attend the workshop "Good Sheppard's / Good Leaders". Total cost is \$4400; 50% was covered by the diocese, 25% by the individuals, and 25% by the parish. The 25% parish share (\$1100) was requested from the Finance Committee. The Parish council approved the recommendation of The Finance Committee.

The committee reviewed multiple fund requests from St. Joseph School teachers relating to continuing education expenses. The committee recommended to the Finance Committee "a pool of \$2,300 to be allocated by the Board of Education. The Parish council approved the recommendation of The Finance Committee. Funds have been placed in reserve for this use.

The last 12 months of communication and topics from the FDC meeting minutes were as follows;

- Provide a Financial Overview for the finance committee & parish (Meeting Minutes)
- The committee has joined “Leave a Legacy” to support the FDC with resources in promoting and educating donors of the endowment fund. An annual fee of \$150 is paid to be a member.
- The committee conducted Endowment Fund Educational meetings September 12th & 13th. 12 attended following the 4:30pm Saturday mass, 4 attended following the 9:00am Sunday mass and 1 attended after the 11:00am mass. One attendee donated \$1,000 to the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation and expressed intent to make a similar contribution yearly. 5 people attended a 7 am mass conducted in April.
- The committee hosted a booth at the St Joseph Ministry Fair in January 2010.
- A “Thank You Luncheon” was conducted for past contributors of the Endowment at the Rectory from 3-5 PM on May 16. 20 attended including committee members and their spouses. The response was good from everyone who attended.
- Provide quarterly newsletter article for the church bulletin insert (educational & promotion of the Endowment Fund)
 - Mark Ahlers newsletter targeted information on IRA contributions.
 - Erwin Froehlich wrote about the changes in our economy and stock market.
 - Dave Bowen will target information regarding the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation and the second Endowment Fund option.
 - Mark Ahlers human capital.
- The Financial Development Committee goals for 2010.
 - 1. Continue to distribute quarterly newsletter.
 - 1st Q. Mark Ahlers
 - 2nd Q. Bob Anderson
 - 3rd Q. Erwin Froehlich
 - 4th Q. Michelle Schaffer
 - 2. Coordinate Efforts with Other Parish Fundraising Groups
 - 3. Follow up Mailing to 2009 contacts (Conduct presentations to parishioners last fall on Endowment Funds)
 - 4. A performance report on the Endowment Fund will be requested from the archdiocese. The report would reflect performance from inception to present date and reviewed by committee.
- Long Term Goals
 - Increase the contributions to the endowment fund that meets or exceeds the fund balance of 1 million dollars in 5 years,
 - 5 year goal (November, 2011)-\$1,000,000
 - 2 year goal (November, 2009)-\$650,000
 - 1 year goal (November, 2007)-\$500,000

The Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this year successful for the Endowment Fund and all the support that was given to the Financial Development Committee. Your contributions continue to provide support to the needs of the parish now, and in the future. Anyone interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund or the Financial Development

Committee, please visit the parish web site at www.stjoesmarion.org and click on St. Joseph Parish Endowment Fund Information.

Liturgy Function Committee **By Michele Mains**

The Liturgy Function committee met approximately four times during the last year. The committee members consist of six members each representing a facet of the liturgy and mass preparation: children's liturgy, environment (this includes decorating the altar and any special requirements during Lent and Advent), preaching, music, ministers and ministries (lectors, Eucharistic ministers), and servers. It also includes a member of the parish council whose purpose is to provide information back to the council. Fr. Rod presides over the meetings. Sean Smith, our deacon, is also a member of the committee. The liturgy planning committee discusses the major themes from the readings. It is then up to the liturgy function committee to discuss and implement these themes.

The meetings may include status reports. For example, how many servers, lectors, and Eucharistic ministers we presently have. One snag we did hit this past year was the retirement of our music director. After several months of searching Bonnie Bluml was hired this spring. She is a member of the church. Specifics are dealt with during our major liturgical seasons, Lent and Advent. Liturgical themes are discussed and approved by the committee members. This must meet the approval of Fr. John. The parish has ample numbers of lectors and Eucharistic ministers to meet our mass schedule. Several are commissioned at the Easter Vigil.

Efforts to improve the accountability for the lectors and Eucharistic ministers were brought up. This is a chronic problem. Many ministers are not showing up for their scheduled mass. This not only creates last minute chaos for Fr., but it undermines the importance of these functions. These efforts to hold the ministers accountable are not meant to impugn anyone but to reinforce the sanctity and reverence for the mass.

Overall, the committee seeks to uphold and implement the major themes from the readings of the mass as decided by the liturgy planning committee. This is coordinated with the music director (or in the case of this past year, our gracious volunteers) who also communicates with all of the various musical groups in the parish. It keeps track and handles scheduling of all the lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and servers.

Spiritual Life Committee **By George J. Cleppe**

The following are some activities that Spiritual Life committee has been involved with.

The Ministry Fair is where all the different ministries of St Joe's display information on what they do. There are people from the ministries at the tables to answer any question someone may have in regard to their ministry.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a group of ladies from our parish that get together and pray while they knit shawls. The shawls are then blessed at Sunday mass for people who are ill and need the comfort and prayers knitted into these shawls.

The Word Among Us is a booklet that has scripture reading for the day and a meditation on the daily readings. These have been available during Lent and Easter at the church entrances...

“The Traveling Last Supper was held at St Joe’s on January 16&17. They put on a great play of the Last Supper with some great music. The people are from Dubuque County. The group has been doing this for 10 years in different areas.

John Michael Talbot, a top selling Catholic artist, will be here in May of 2011 to perform and hold a retreat at St. Joseph.

Mary Kauffman held an Ignatius retreat during Lent for four weeks.

Spiritual life is helping Fr John and Fr Rodney with the material for up coming retreats for the various church committees. We plan on having one a year starting with the Pastoral Council and Faith Formation Committee.

There is a proposal for a St Joseph Spirituality Center for ongoing spiritual direction for individuals and small groups.

Our mission is to provide things for the parish to take the Sunday liturgy home with them to use with their family.

Parish Community Life Committee By Paula Ladage

The Parish Community Life Committee works to "put a friendly face" on the parish and to offer our own parish members Christian hospitality, seeing this as an essential form of stewardship and evangelization. Parish Community Life encompasses programs and activities of the parish that strengthen Christian community. The committee fosters a sense of belonging among the members of the parish. Its scope of activity would include parish events that draw us together as a community--a community of St Joseph parishioners. Another purpose of the committee is to encourage family life within the parish community. By its nature, Parish Community Life is mostly involved in "social" events within the parish, and fundraising is not normally a focus for our events. A couple of events have a fee to cover the costs, and some provide for free-will offerings to offset costs. Any proceeds are designated either to charitable organizations in the community or to the parish.

Currently the Parish Community Life Committee operates pretty informally. There is no chairman; generally meetings are called by the Parish Council Liaison to the committee, Paula Ladage. Members are encouraged to suggest activities and/or call for a committee meeting. We do not have regular monthly meetings, but they are more on an "as needed" basis. Currently,

meeting minutes are written by Paula Ladage. The PCL committee currently does not have a budget *per se*; events are handled on an individual basis.

The members of the Parish Community Life Committee (or the Parish Life Committee, as it is called in the recently-adopted Pastoral Council Constitution), are: Holly Hackett, Pam Hyberger, Ken Klingler, Sharron Konzen, Paula Ladage, Audra McEnany, Charlotte Osterhaus, Dan Palmersheim, Marian Palmersheim, Maryann Petesich, Susan Scharnau, and Lona Sedlacek. Through the January 2010 Ministry Fair and Time and Talent Survey, we were blessed later in this fiscal year with interest from several new members: Randy Bries, Kathy Geers, Teresa Girard, Jeff Jennings, Dan Limbert, Pat Schirm, Joan Tatarka, and Kate Varcoe.

Time and effort was given by the committee this year to nine events. They included:

1. **Annual bus trip to Chicago for a Chicago Cubs-St Louis Cardinals baseball game on July 11 and 12, 2009.** Arranged by Ken Klingler and Tom Coppa, over 100 people took advantage of this opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow-parishioners.

2. **Lunch on September 19, 2009 for volunteers doing the fall cleaning of the St Joseph Church and meeting spaces and offices.** Lunch provided by Paula Ladage was a token of appreciation for the willing volunteers that come forward for so many St Joe's events, even no-glamour ones like cleaning the toilets.

3. **Christmas Sing-along and Hot Dog and Chili Supper on December 19, 2009.** This annual event attended by about 80 people, was chaired by Sharron Konzen, with Maryann Petesich as co-chair. Piano was by Mary Klingler, and song leaders were Joan Boche and Paige Boche. Since we had expected a bigger crowd, a large amount of food left over was taken to Mission of Hope, and there were net proceeds to the parish of \$15.

4. **Ministry Fair on January 16 and 17, 2010.** An attractive display outlining our committee's ministry was made by Pam Hyberger. Paula Ladage being the Chair of the Ministry Fair, Community Life Committee members were recruited to serve coffee and donuts, as well as host our Community Life table/display.

5. **"Dance with Cinderella" dinner and dance on February 6, 2010.** Susan Scharnau brought forth this new idea and executed it well. It was for young girls of the parish to share a special night with their fathers (or grandfathers, uncles, etc). The \$10 per ticket included a catered dinner, dancing and music by DJ Jerry Brown (parishioner), a decorated church hall, and keepsake photographs. Attendance for the gala was 101, and net proceeds to the parish were \$75.

6. **"Spud Night" on March 20, 2010.** This annual winter event was chaired by Dan and Marian Palmersheim, assisted by Lona Sedlacek. The potato bar, salad, and desserts are always a hit. We made a special effort this year to encourage those attending to meet their fellow-parishioners. Attendance was approximately 100 people (less than the 150 we prepared for), so we were able to deliver some leftovers to a meal site and give about \$70 to Camp Courageous.

7. **RCIA Reception after the Easter Vigil on April 3, 2010.** This festive reception to recognize the RCIA participants who were received into our parish at Holy Saturday services, was arranged by Holly Hackett. Fruit and finger foods and punch were enjoyed by the many parishioners who came downstairs to the late-night reception to congratulate our new parishioners.

8. **Retirement Receptions for Ruth Ard, RE Director on June 5 and 6, 2010.** Receptions were held after all weekend Masses in recognition and appreciation for Ruth Ard's many years of service to our parish. Cookies and punch and coffee and donuts also drew parishioners down

for some social time with Ruth as well as with their fellow-parishioners. Paula Ladage and Lona Sedlacek coordinated the event.

9. Reception for High School Graduates on June 13, 2010. This reception for any graduates from our parish was held after the 11 o'clock Sunday Mass. The Jeff Jennings family took care of this cookies-and-punch reception for our Community Life Committee.

Even though we are a quite large parish, our committee endeavors to make people feel at home in our parish. We can hope that some personal connections at our events can draw people, especially new parishioners, into the network of spiritual resources, events, committees, and outreaches that St Joseph's offers. Many of our committee members have been serving for a number of years, and we can always use new ideas and new faces. We have a "Guess Who's Coming Dinner" event (an event that hasn't been held in quite a few years) in the planning stages for this fall. It promises to be a good opportunity to meet new people in our parish. Won't you plan to attend? Or better yet --help us plan it!?!

Deanery Council By Bob Celichowski

A deanery is a group of neighboring parishes within the Archdiocese joined together to collaborate in Deanery Pastoral Council. The Deanery Pastoral Council forms with the Dean a leadership body to facilitate collaboration among the parishes within the deanery.

Deanery Pastoral Councils bridge the gap between parish and diocese, enabling Catholics to experience the Archdiocese as a community of faith, fulfilling the mission of Christ. Deanery Pastoral Councils also serve as a forum for reflecting on pastoral needs that are common to parishes in the Deanery. They will foster inter-parochial collaboration maintaining communication with the Parish Pastoral Councils and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

Deanery Pastoral Councils provide a structure that enables all members of the body of Christ, clergy, laity and religious to share their wisdom in the services of the Church.

Deanery Pastoral Council and the Parish Pastoral Councils

As a resource planning group the Deanery Pastoral Council provides opportunities for Parish Pastoral Councils to share learning experiences, resources and ideas. A Deanery Pastoral Council helps Parish Pastoral Councils develop a sense of Deanery identity. Ongoing communication and open dialogue between the Deanery Pastoral Council and the Parish Pastoral Councils strengthen the capacity for effective collaboration between and among parishes in the Deanery.

There are 12 Deaneries in all. St. Joseph Parish belongs to the Cedar Rapids Deanery.

The others are Bellevue, Decorah, Dubuque, Dyersville, Elkader, Independence, Marshalltown, Mason City, New Hampton, Waterloo, and Webster City.

The Deanery meets four times per year and is hosted by one of the member churches.

The meetings this year covered topics regarding what took place at the special task force meetings. The special task force comprised of two representatives from each parish in the

Cedar Rapids Deanery. It discussed the shortage of priests and the consolidation of parishes. It also covered the changes in the church. We are going from Parish Councils to Pastoral Councils. Pastoral Councils serve in an advisory capacity to the Pastor and are to utilize the many and varied gifts of the laity in service to the Church as it continues to carry out the Mission of Christ. Pastoral Councils are not “task oriented” nor are they to be considered as “task oriented”. They are the Visionaries of the Parish.

Social Concerns/Justice Committee **By Steve Determan**

Starting in the spring of 2010, The Social Concerns Committee had a name change to the Social Justice Committee. The purpose of the Social Justice Committee is threefold. One, to continue the ministry of Jesus by service to marginalized persons and persons with special needs, two, to promote and coordinate programs which will promote justice and charity in full measure to all of God's children, three, to provide opportunities for parishioners to respond to the social needs of today.

The Social Justice committee meets the second Thursday of the month. During the 2009-2010 year, the chair of the committee was Bob Sowadski, and Father Rodney Allers was facilitator. In addition to discussion and planning, the committee supports the following interests:

Oaxaca Mission

For the twentieth straight year, Saint Joseph's parish has continued to provide on-going physical, financial and spiritual support for La Estancia Fraternidad, a mission project in Oaxaca, Mexico. This mission can be compared to a Ronald McDonald type of structure St. Joseph's helped to build in 1989.

La Estancia provides daily lodging, meals and medicines to over 200 indigenous people. La Estancia holds our parish in high esteem and is very thank full for our support.

Bob Buckley is the Social Justice Committee representative and will be visiting the mission his fall with a small group of adult. If you are interested in going, contact Bob.

Senior Living

In August of 2008, Trinity Pointe, the third senior living facility built by the Marion Churches Senior Living Community Foundation was opened. This facility joined the existing Moundview Manor and Scott Meadows completed in 2000 and 2004 respectively. With these 40 additional units on the Marion Churches campus, there are now 112 apartments and 118 residents. Through extensive landscaping and sidewalks between the buildings the residents can easily move about the campus and enjoy the community gazebo. This project has been supported by donations from the 12 participating churches, business community, private foundations, individuals and service organizations. St Joseph continues to offer support through donations and grants. Katie Lammers is the representative from St. Joseph on the Foundation board.

The focus for the last year has been twofold: In order to fulfill the mission of providing affordable housing for low income seniors, the Foundation has subsidized the rents of current

residents at Scott Meadows, the only non HUD facility on campus, due to rising operational costs. As of July 1, 2010, we discontinued subsidizing rents, but will monitor residents' ability to pay the necessary rental increase. The second focus has been to pay down the commercial loan debt associated with Scott Meadows. The Foundation has contributed \$150,000 toward this debt reduction. All units in the three building complex are occupied and a waiting list exists.

Helping Hand

Helping Hand is a local service organization that facilitates the distribution of funds in emergency situations for persons in need. Bob Sowadski is the Social Justice Committee representative to this organization. Helping Hand has now opened satellite offices at Crossroads Mission in southwest Cedar Rapids and Living Waters Methodist Church in Marion to better meet the needs of the larger area.

Catholic Worker House

The Catholic Worker House provides shelter and meals for those in need. Saint Joseph Parish continues to provide financial support through an annual grant and continues to work with the Knights of Columbus to facilitate work teams who provide semiannual maintenance at the house.

Larissa Norris became the manager of the Catholic Worker House in 2009. She has been very active establishing new programs to assist the homeless make the transition to permanent housing. In 2009 the CWH provided 2465 nights of shelter to the homeless and delivered 794 food baskets to homebound needy in the community. 2010 is on track to exceed both these 2009 statistics. In April of 2010, Larissa came and spoke to Saint Joseph Parish before mass, and invited the parish to help support this worth while cause. Bob Sowadski is our Representative to the group.

Marion Food Pantry

In response to Christ call to "Feed my sheep", Saint Joseph parish in the past has collected food for the Marion Food Pantry during the month of February and Thanksgiving Day. Since the economic climate has placed a strain on the Marion pantry, in May of 2010 food collection was started at all Saint Josephs weekend masses. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our parishioners, weekly food donations to the Marion pantry have been very successful. Each week the specific needs of the pantry are published in the parish bulletin. Please keep up your gracious generosity and if you have not contributed, please consider doing so. As a result of our action, other Marion churches are beginning weekly collections.

Cedar Rapids Flood Relief

In response to the 2008 flood of Cedar Rapids, Saint Joseph parish volunteers assisted Catholic Charities with the rebuild of several homes and completed the total rebuild of one home in association with the United Methodist Block by Block rebuild program. Anyone interested in helping with this effort may contact Steve Determan or the Social Justice Committee.

Respect Life

Deb Laue, Ray Franklin and Betti Anton are representatives for Respect Life and keep the group informed of various activities in the area that promote this cause. During the past year, a Pack and Play project was held to collect donations of infant clothing and formula in a play pen at the back of the church. The play pen was filled and donations were sent to Birthright and Aid to Women. Some of the Social Justice committee members have joined other pro-life groups in praying the rosary at Planned Parenthood on Saturday mornings.

Grant Applications

22 Grant applications were issued this year with 20 returned. (See attached list.) Funding is provided each year through the percentage of the weekly offering given by St. Joseph parishioners. The grant applications are issued by Nancy Rowe and reviewed by the committee. Consideration is given to suggestions for new grant recipients as needed. In addition to the above, the Social Justice committee holds two soup suppers during Advent and Lent, each featuring a guest speaker from one of the organizations the parish supports. There is no charge for the suppers, but a free will offering is accepted and donated to the speaker for the organization he or she represents.

The goals of the group this year were to increase membership and communicate to the parish the mission of Social Justice. During the Ministry Fair held in January, several new members joined the committee. For the third straight year, the Parish increased the percentage of the offering given for Social Justice grants from 4.1% to 4.4% with the 2010-2011 percentages increasing to 4.7% and the ultimate goal of 5%. Plans are underway to invite organizations we support to come and speak to the parish and to publish in the bulletin, information about organizations supported by the parish through the Social Justice grants.

2010 Grants - Organization	2010 Requests	% of Request	2010 Allocations
Aid to Women	\$1,800	3.64%	\$1,493
Birthright	\$3,500	7.08%	\$2,902
Camp Courageous	\$1,500	3.03%	\$1,244
Catherine McAuley	\$3,000	6.07%	\$2,488
Catholic Worker House	\$1,100	2.22%	\$912
Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity	\$2,500	5.06%	\$2,073
Center for Renewal - Relief House in Ghana - Sharon Scully	\$1,645	3.33%	\$1,364
Churches of Marion Food Pantry	\$4,000	8.09%	\$3,317
Community Health Free Clinic	\$3,000	6.07%	\$2,488
Helping Hands Ministry	\$4,000	8.09%	\$3,317
Horizons Family Service	\$1,900	3.84%	\$1,575
La Estancia Fraternidad - Oaxaca	\$2,500	5.06%	\$2,073
Linn Area Right to Life	\$1,500	3.03%	\$1,244
Marion Elderly Housing (Hiltop Manor)	\$3,500	7.08%	\$2,902
Mission of Hope	\$2,000	4.04%	\$1,658

Nigeria Mission - Sr. Mary Julia Kepros	\$1,500	3.03%	\$1,244
Salvation Army	\$1,500	3.03%	\$1,244
Senior Living Found.	\$5,000	10.11%	\$4,146
Waypoint	\$2,000	4.04%	\$1,658
Willis Dady Emergency Shelter	\$2,000	4.04%	\$1,658
Total	\$49,445	100.00%	\$41,000

Board of Education Introduction By Doug Brock

The Board of Education is made up of six elected Parishioners, each serving a three year term. These elected members also serve on other Parish committees. Below is a list of Board members that served the Parish last year, along with their committee assignments:

Doug Brock – President, Parish Council; Doug Boe – Vice President, Finance and Administration; Sara Sodawasser – Secretary, Xavier Board; Ken Bauer – Chargers (school parent organization), Financial Development; Sheila Lara – Public Relations; Dennis Clubb – SIAC.

At the June 2010 Board meeting, we welcomed two new Board members to replace Doug Boe and Sara Sodawasser as their terms came to an end. The new Board members are Peg Detweiler and Jerry Brown. The committee assignments for 2010-2011 are: Doug Brock – President, Faith Formation Commission; Ken Bauer – Vice President, Finance and Administration, Xavier; Sara Sheila Lara – Secretary, Public Relations; Dennis Clubb – Chargers (school parent organization), Financial Development; Peg Detweiler – SIAC; Jerry Brown – Public Relations.

The Board of Education in 2009-2010 was responsible for the youth and adult educational programs of the Parish. Beginning in 2010-2011 this responsibility moves to the Faith Formation Commission and the Board of Education name changes to the Catholic School Board. The Board meets the second Tuesday of every month in the school library at 5pm. Fr. John is also a voting member of the Board and Tony Voss (School Principal), Ruth Ard (Director of Religious Education), and a teacher representative are also present at the meetings. For 2009-2010, Leslie Baumann was the teacher representative. The teacher representative for 2010-2011 will be named by the new Principal. The Board would like to have a new principal named and on staff by July 1. Following are the reports from the school, religious education program, and Xavier High School.

By Principal Cathy Walz

Catholicity

Students attended Liturgy or a prayer service each week throughout the school year. Each classroom had the opportunity to plan and provide the ministries for these events of worship.

Several service projects were completed and much learning done throughout the year as part of our school's involvement in the Metro-wide Service Learning Program. Each grade level is involved in a project throughout the metro area that teaches them about a specific service outreach and provides them the opportunity to assist with that outreach.

Students attended religion classes four times a week throughout this school year. Liturgy/prayer service takes place on the fifth day of the week. An extensive religion curriculum is implemented in all grades, preschool through eighth grade. Included in addition to the core religion curriculum are units in Human Growth and Development, Bullying/Harassment, and Safe Environment.

Faith and gospel value integration is a core mission of our Catholic School. In addition to religion, teachers instruct in all academic areas. The distinction of our school is the faith and gospel value integration that happens each day during instruction in core academic areas. Teachers integrate values of our faith into subjects such as social studies, language arts, and science.

Curriculum

A new K-5 Social Studies Curriculum was studied and purchased for the 2010-2011 school year. The publisher of the new curriculum is Houghton Mifflin-Harcourt. This comes as an addition to the 6th-8th grade program purchased last year.

A new K-6 Math Curriculum was studied and purchased for the 2010-2011 school year. EnVision Math, published by Scott Foresman matches our student needs as well as the Iowa Core Curriculum.

St. Joseph Catholic School students continued their study of the Spanish language and culture. Students in kindergarten through fourth grade received Spanish instruction once a week for 30 minutes. Fifth graders received instruction twice a week, for a total of 60 minutes. Middle School students received instruction as a core subject four times a week, for a total of 200 minutes. We are extremely fortunate to offer this 21st century skill to our students.

Professional Development

Teachers completed year one of a two-year professional development program in the area of "Six Trait" Writing Strategies. This program was chosen after review of student achievement data that indicated an area of schoolwide improvement was writing.

A team of teachers and Mr. Voss attended Iowa Core Curriculum focus days and created the implementation plan for our school.

A team of teachers and Mr. Voss attended instruction in the Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) model. During the 2009-2010 school year, PBS was implemented in five areas throughout the school, including the lunchroom, hallways, and bathrooms. Positive Behavior Supports provide student training in expected behavior. Before training students, the entire school staff makes decisions on what the expectations are for students. The power of this program comes in teacher collaboration and unified expectations throughout the school building.

Extracurricular Opportunities

St. Joseph Catholic School students had the following extra- and co-curricular opportunities available to them this past school year: Concert Choir (6-8), Concert Band (6-8), Jazz Band (6-8), Major Faith Choir (3-5), Lego League (5-8), FSEA (6-8), Opus Honor Choir (6-8), Musical (6-8), Student Council, Football, Volleyball, Wrestling, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, and Track.

Enrollment

	PS	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
09-10	18	23	31	26	20	28	20	27	24	19
10-11 (as of Aug '10)	17	18	18	23	21	16	23	10	20	19

Finance

St. Joseph Catholic School ended the 2009-2010 fiscal year with a positive cash reserve balance of \$22,921.34. This was due to extreme diligence in spending throughout the school year.

The 2010-2011 budget was significantly trimmed to allow for the change in student enrollment, staffing necessary to serve reduced number of students, and the amount of income budgeted for the school year.

The tuition collection process that was introduced during the 2008-2009 school year was continued this past year. This includes using a collection agency for outstanding tuition when no payment arrangements have been made. The process was successful, recovering over 58% of outstanding tuition.

Welcoming New School Staff

Mrs. Cathy Walz began her role as St. Joseph Catholic School Principal on July 1, 2010. Mrs. Walz comes to St. Joseph with 11 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. She recently served five years as the Director of Cedar Valley Catholic Schools in Waterloo.

Mrs. Julie White is our new instrumental, vocal, and general music instructor. Mrs. White comes to St. Joseph with a wealth of knowledge and experience in all areas of music instruction.

Miss Stephanie Ball began this fall as the Middle School Social Studies teacher. Miss Ball attended St. Joseph and Xavier before receiving her teaching degree. She is proud to be serving at our parish school.

Religious Education

By Liz Lockhart

The Religious Education Program at St. Joseph Parish “closed the curtain” this June on a year filled with many successes and celebrations. A few of our successes included: continued high enrollment, a large contingent of faith-filled volunteers, and both large and small opportunities to share and grow in the Catholic faith. The joyful celebrations were numerous and varied, many of which centered upon the impending retirement of our Director, Ruth Ard, who has given 22 fabulous years at the helm of our program.

The Year in Review:

Enrollment

St. Joseph Parish continues to have the largest religious education program within the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The kindergarten through eighth grade portion of the program has 437 students while the high school program includes another 129 students, for a total program enrollment of 566 students!

Volunteers

With such high student numbers, it takes a veritable army of volunteers to carry out the mission of instruction with which we have been entrusted by our program families. Thankfully, St. Joseph Parish is filled with many parishioners who take this mission seriously. Many of you step forward willingly to help as catechists, aides and volunteers to help accomplish the many varied tasks required of such a quality program as ours. This year the program included 42 adults who responded to the call to instruct our youth in the faith as primary classroom catechists; 21 adults who stepped forward as classroom aides to assist in any way needed; 25 individuals who maintained secure hallways as hall monitors (4 of whom were “full time” throughout the entire year!); a dozen regular table volunteers who worked diligently week in and week out to ensure that the craft and classroom enrichment materials were always met; over 50 volunteers who provided much-needed food and drink for the volunteers throughout the year at both special events and weekly classes; and the numerous unsung heroes who hosted events, sewed items, donated materials, sold or purchased things or donated of their time in support of our children and our program. Thank you, one and all! The success of St. Joseph Parish truly is built upon the assistance and support of each and every one of our volunteers.

Educational Opportunities

The year included outreach and educational opportunities for not only our youth, but for adults as well. Among the planned events were in-services, parent nights, sacrament preparation events and a Lenten Soup Luncheon. Annual in-services are regularly planned by our area Religious Education leaders (DIOCORE). This year we were fortunate to have ValLimar Jansen and Tom Kendzia join us in September for a unique dramatic musical in-service centered around the sacraments. The October in-service was centered on the Church's theme of "The Year of the Priest." Fr. Schatz, Director of Vocation Awareness for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, was invited to St. Joseph to speak about vocations and our need to be mindful of our own call to a vocation, whether it be the priesthood or matrimony or single life. Weather forced the cancellation of the January in-service, but we'll try again to bring author Joe Paprocki to town in the next program year.

Every grade hosted at least one parent night throughout the year. Parent night is a fantastic opportunity for parents to visit their student's classroom, meet the catechist and engage in some fun learning or craft opportunities while getting a clearer sense of the curriculum and educational focus for the year. These parent nights are consistently well attended and are a great sign of support for both the student and the catechist.

Many of the sacrament preparation events for 2nd grade families include a learning opportunity for both parents and students. These include a general sacrament preparation overview meeting at the beginning of the program year, Good Shepherd Days (specific preparation for 1st Reconciliation) and Bread of Life Days (specific preparation for 1st Communion). These events are very meaningful for the families and volunteers involved and are consistently well received and well attended.

The Lenten Soup Luncheon was a new offering this program year and one spearheaded by Ruth Ard. She oversaw the food preparation (which included homemade soups and bread by her husband, Dr. David Ard, and herself), assembled the volunteers to serve and host (a huge thank you to Charlotte Machacek and her helpful group!) and lined up the guest speakers who expounded on the weekly Sunday readings (several staff members and our own parishioner Linda Lundahl). The luncheons were a wonderful opportunity for the staff, volunteers and attendees to share a meal while breaking open the Word.

Service Opportunities

Throughout the year students participated in outreach opportunities within their classrooms and, along with their families, participated in both Advent and Lenten giving projects. While outreach opportunities varied by grade they included food drives (1st, 3rd and 7th grades), handmade cards delivered to nursing home residents (kindergarten and 4th grades), collections for Native Americans (5th and 8th grades), keepsake crafts for parish 1st Communion families (5th grade) and a book and paper goods collection in conjunction with the Jewish Synagogue (6th grade).

Advent and Lenten giving opportunities reached out to those in need within our own community. For Advent, we worked in conjunction with Waypoint to assist families with Christmas presents for children and their single parents. Over 200 tags were removed from the giving tree and the corresponding presents were successfully delivered to the charity office. The Lenten giving project included items needed most by the Marion Food Pantry and the Cedar

Rapids Free Medical Clinic. Numerous food items and health care items were delivered to these charities to be distributed in our local area. Thank you to all who contributed!

Celebrations

While the year was rather jokingly dubbed “The Year of Ruth” in August, it became a fitting tribute to a woman who dedicated her ministry to service and education. The celebrations throughout the year were both large and small. The largest was the end of year program gathering at the Marriott. Ruth was honored with many toasts and roasts by the attendees and special presentations by the various catechists, grouped by grades - - which included skits centered on everything from songs to pictures to poems to candy bars! Several catechists were also honored that night for their years of service: 5 Years – Monica Dunbar and Michelle Simoneau; 10 Years – Jane Schlegel and Judy Ramsey. Catechist Endorsement Certificates were given to the following for their continued education and development: Beginning Catechists – Kate Ahlers, Deandra Chlystun, Martha Garcia-Wegener, Kevin Holm, Heather Koranda, Christ Mather, Stephanie Miller, Trish Peyton, and Becky Weiss; Catechist Status – Ann Brendes, Jeanine Cruse, Kevin Gamble, Michelle Simoneau, Kim Sleezer and Colette Webster-Moore; Advanced Catechist – Sue Verhille; and Mentor Catechists – Liz Lockhart, Judy Ramsey, Lori VanderVelden and Michele Zahradnik. The night included gifts and tears and wonderful memories both shared and newly made. Thank you again to Ruth Ard for contributing so much to St. Joseph Parish during her time as the Director of Religious Education!

We celebrate the success of the year past and look forward to the many changes in store for 2010-2011.

Xavier High School **by Tom Keating, Principal**

Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2009-10 year was certified at 758 students. St. Joseph students totaled 60. In the past three years, an average of 72% of St. Joseph’s 8th graders have enrolled at Xavier. For the 2010-11 upcoming school year, 70% have enrolled. Thank you for the continued support from St. Joseph’s parish for Xavier High School!

Summary Report

Xavier High School provides students with an environment that stresses the presence and love of God. Students at Xavier High School enjoy many opportunities to explore, deepen, share and live their faith. We begin and end each day with prayer led by a faculty member. Individual classes throughout the day also begin with prayer. Mass is offered throughout each quarter and parish priests are invited to celebrate those Masses. These Masses are usually arranged by individual classes. The entire Xavier High School community worships at all-school Mass once per month. We also offer Friday morning Mass each week at 7:00 a.m. Prayer services and communal reconciliation help students prepare for the seasons of Advent and Lent. Students and staff have the opportunity to participate in Eucharistic Adoration and our Day of the Rosary.

Our Theology classes provide a solid foundation of Catholic knowledge and an opportunity to explore what it means to be Catholic in today's world. All of our students explore faith issues through class retreats and many participate in Spiritual Teams, TEC opportunities and Wellspring (one on one faith discussions with faculty) to further deepen their faith experience. In 2009-10 we continued into our second year with Kairos, a retreat opportunity for our juniors. All of our students live their faith through service work in the community and many reach out to the larger world community through participation in mission trips. While we are proud of our efforts to guide students in the spiritual development, we continue to look for opportunities in the area of spiritual life through retreats, service and parish involvement.