

# Saint Lawrence Letter



February 2012

IT SEEMS TO ME... February 2012 – *Father Schott*

**#1 A New Year!** – January is nearly past, but I want to congratulate you on helping us begin 2012 with a positive financial balance. I am so proud of you. 2011 was a remarkable year for Saint Lawrence Parish. We completed our new construction and paid our bills without having to borrow a dollar.

I hope that we began 2012 with a positive spiritual balance as well, with a stronger faith, deeper trust in God, a more firm hope, and a richer love for God and for all. I pray that 2012 will be another year of spiritual growth and progress for each of us.

## **#2 Our Second Century Campaign**

We are well into phase two of our project, renovation of our church interior. 2012 is the third/final year of the three-year pledge period of our campaign. As of January 6, 2012, \$3,450,577 has been pledged. (This includes \$133,536 pledged as “deferred” payments, e.g., wills, life insurance, property to be sold. \$54,463 of these deferred payments has already been paid.) Campaign income (pledges honored) is \$2,967,774. Of the total pledged, \$484,714 remains to be paid in 2012. You can be proud of the fact that we have not needed to borrow any funds so far. As the church interior renovation proceeds, invoices will begin to arrive. I encourage you to honor your pledges as soon as you can. Thank you so much.

## **#3 The new Roman Missal**

I appreciate your learning the new responses. In a few months we will know them by heart. I have been using the same options for a couple of months but will begin introducing some alternatives.



The Greeting. I have been using the third (the most simple) option: *The Lord be with you*. This greeting comes from the Old Testament *Book of Ruth 2:4* and has been the traditional Latin greeting in Catholic liturgy: *Dominus vobiscum*.

The first option is also a biblical text, a verse from St. Paul’s *Second Letter to the Corinthians 13:13*– *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all*.

Except for a few words this is a greeting we have used for the past 40 years. The second option, also a biblical text, a verse from St. Paul’s *Letter to the Romans 1:7*– *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*. We see in these three options the Roman Missal’s preference for prayer texts drawn from Sacred Scripture, rather than human compositions.

Our Response. The Latin response to each of these three greetings is *Et cum spiritu tuo*...which the Roman Missal translates literally: *And with your spirit*. In the December newsletter I noted that this response we make

reminds us that at Mass we participate in a spiritual activity. We recognize that we are spiritual persons, animated by the Holy Spirit.

The earliest tradition of this text (*And with your spirit*) makes clear that the *spirit* referred to is not the soul of the presiding deacon/priest/or bishop but rather the *spirit* he has received through ordination. When we hear the presider’s greeting (*the Lord be with you*), we recognize that the ordained presider is giving us a spiritual gift (*the Lord*), a gift he is able to extend because he has been ordained to do so. By the sacrament of Holy Orders this deacon/priest/bishop has been conformed to Christ so that he can bring Christ to others in his ministry: *The Lord be with you*. Our answer (*and with your spirit*) recognizes that we are engaged in a spiritual exchange, a gift from the Lord, offered by one set aside by the Church to offer this gift.

The Penitential Act. The word “act” is significant. This previously was called “the penitential rite.” The word “act” reminds us that this is not a substitute for the sacrament of Reconciliation. This “act” does not forgive sins. Instead it reminds us that as sinners we need God’s mercy, so that we can actually hear the word of God and celebrate the Holy Eucharist). The presider’s invitation to this penitential act clearly notes this: *Let us acknowledge our sins and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries*. Few of us enjoy being reminded that we are sinners. However, this humble acknowledgement of our need for mercy does open our hearts to God’s grace.



There are three forms of this penitential act. The first is the traditional *confiteor* (*I confess to almighty God...*) that I have *greatly sinned in what I have done and what I have failed to do*. “Greatly” sinned is a more literal translation and another invitation to honest humility. We tend to excuse ourselves, but even the smallest sin is a great evil. Then we say: *through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault*. This three-fold (superlative) statement of self-accusation & repentance is meant to remind us of the superlative nature of God’s mercy and great love.

The second form is a new translation of what we been using. Presider: *Have mercy on us, O Lord*. Response: *For we have sinned against you*. Presider: *Show us, O Lord, your mercy*. Response: *And grant us your salvation*.

The third form is similar to what we have been using. The presider addresses *Lord Jesus* with three statements of Christ’s merciful actions. The response is: *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy*.

**#4 Lent** begins February 22. Begin to think about how you will grow spiritually this Lent. Additional Reconciliation, Masses, devotions will be available and announced in coming Sunday bulletins.

– *Father Schott*

January 20, 2012

FROM: Iowa Catholic Conference

To: Iowa Catholic Conference Legislative Network

Some breaking news, albeit disappointing ...

The Obama Administration announced today it will not change its contraceptive mandate rule related to the Affordable Care Act. All new insurance plans will be required to cover contraception and sterilization procedures with no co-pays, including long-lasting injections, implants and "morning-after pills" that may cause an early abortion. It was announced that certain religious groups would have until Aug. 1, 2013 to comply.

This decision is disappointing on many levels. It changes what has been settled federal policy on exemptions for religious organizations. To be eligible, now an organization must meet four strict criteria, including the requirement that it both hire and serve primarily people of its own faith. This is extremely narrow and does not cover organizations such as Catholic schools, hospitals or charities. Jesus and his apostles would not have been "religious enough" for the exemption, since they healed and served people of different faiths.

The rule considers fertility to be a disease to be prevented. The other services on HHS's list seek to prevent serious disease, such as breast cancer, lung cancer, AIDS. In addition, resources needed to provide basic health care to the uninsured will be used instead to subsidize IUDs and Depo-Provera for those who could afford to pay.

The Bill of Rights says we are free to live by our religious beliefs. From our perspective this is an issue related to the First Amendment's "free exercise" clause and no doubt we'll renew efforts to ask Congress to fix this. Current bills are HR 1179 and S 1467.

Here's the news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

### **U.S. bishops vow to fight HHD edict**

WASHINGTON - The Catholic bishops of the United States called "literally unconscionable" a decision by the Obama Administration to continue to demand that sterilization, abortifacients and contraception be included in virtually all health plans. Today's announcement means that this mandate and its very narrow exemption will not change at all; instead there will only be a delay in enforcement against some employers.

"In effect, the president is saying we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences," said Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The cardinal-designate continued, "To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable. It is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom. Historically this represents a challenge and a compromise of our religious liberty."

The HHS rule requires that sterilization and contraception - including controversial abortifacients - be included among "preventive services" coverage in almost every healthcare plan available to Americans. "The government should not force Americans to act as if pregnancy is a disease to be prevented at all costs," added Cardinal-designate Dolan.

At issue, the U.S. bishops and other religious leaders insist, is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom that ensures respect for the conscience of Catholics and all other Americans.

"This is nothing less than a direct attack on religion and First Amendment rights," said Franciscan Sister Jane Marie Klein, chairperson of the board at Franciscan Alliance, Inc., a system of 13 Catholic hospitals. "I have hundreds of employees who will be upset and confused by this edict. I cannot understand it at all."

Daughter of Charity Sister Carol Keehan, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, voiced disappointment with the decision. Catholic hospitals serve one out of six people who seek hospital care annually.

"This was a missed opportunity to be clear on appropriate conscience protection," Sister Keehan said.

Cardinal-designate Dolan urged that the HHS mandate be overturned: "The Obama administration has now drawn an unprecedented line in the sand," he said. "The Catholic bishops are committed to working with our fellow Americans to reform the law and change this unjust regulation. We will continue to study all the implications of this troubling decision."

**Christ Renews His Parish** is a renewal process that utilizes prayer, scripture and sharing of spiritual experiences. The retreat is open to adults 19 years and older in the Carroll area. There is no cost to attend the retreat.

**March 17 & 18 (women's retreat)**

**March 24 & 25 (men's retreat)**

**Location: Kuemper High School**



If anyone is interested you may contact:

Kris Boeckman 792-8199 or Judy Stricker 792-4370 (Women's)  
Scott Sibbel 712-830-4171 or Deacon Greg Sampson 792-2931 (Men's)



**Thank You to all those who volunteer here at St. Lawrence!** We really appreciate all that you do.

Thank you to the parishioners who clean church, take care of flowers, and take care of the sacristy. Thank you to the people who help with the mailings, especially Florine Eich for the many hours of phone calls she makes. Thank you to the money counters and all the many volunteers for our parish events. Thanks to all the students who volunteer your help is very much appreciated. Special Thanks to all the people who volunteer to chair our parish events.

Thank you to our Finance Council, Pastoral Council, Ladies Guild Board and Liturgical Ministers. Sincere Thanks To All!

**Parish Finance Council:**

January 14, 2012

Present were Members: Roger Berg, Robyn Brinker, Jim Greteman, Cam Janson, & Jeff Koster; Director: Ann Fitzpatrick; and Fr. Schott. The meeting began with Scripture & prayer.

Members reviewed parish December financial reports (incomes/expenses, balance sheet, check register, outstanding bills). December 2011 church support increased over 2010, but total church support for the first two quarters of 2011-12 decreased slightly. Total salaries & benefits for the first two quarters increased \$2,269 over the previous year. Property & liability insurance on our new construction is \$2,240 per year. We began 2012 with a positive balance of \$5,345.34 with all 2011 assessments and expenses paid. Congratulations to our parishioners. Total income to *Our Second Century Campaign* is \$2,939,136.23; total project costs are \$2,809,444.17. \$8,083 was contributed in our December "gift-to-your-parish" appeal for funds for a new crucifix for our church interior.

We purchased new ministry-scheduling software. Members asked if our software has the ability to send emails informing/reminding volunteers (lectors, EMCs, Mass servers, greeters, gift-bearers) of their assignments. January-December 2011 church support statements were mailed January 11. Parish raffle tickets will be mailed to parishioners January 24. The Raffle wine & cheese party will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Our Second Century Project.** January 2<sup>nd</sup> volunteers removed nearly everything from the church interior. Sanctuary furnishings were moved to Collision Hall for Masses during the renovation. Stations of the cross, statues, etc are being stored in the rectory. The pews, carpeting, and floor tile were removed. The baptismal font and musicians areas of the sanctuary platform have been reconfigured. All heating/AC units have been removed. The nave floor has been prepared for new tile. The wainscoting and other woodwork in the nave are being stripped and sanded to prepare for re-staining. New doors for the north & south entrances have been ordered. Lighting is being upgraded. A new sound system is being designed. The choir loft floor has been rebuilt to accommodate pews.

Some members of the parish Flowers & Shrubs Committee have met to plan for landscaping projects in the spring. Members suggested a new sidewalk/steps leading from the N. West Street sidewalk west to the sidewalk on the south side of the covered walkway, to enable folks who park on N. West Street to get to the south doors of the narthex without having to walk on the driveway.

Mardy Snyder, Betty Anderson & Maria Shibata volunteered to chair the January 21 Winter Dinner-Dance.

One family joined our parish in December; two families moved out of our parish. Next meeting: February 11, 2012, 7:30am.

**Ladies Guild Executive Board Meeting January 10, 2012**

**Present:** President Diane Badding, Lynn Wittrock, Treasurer Carla Hinners, Secretary Deb Quandt and new board members Kristy Poland, Becky Snyder, Kathy Stein, Sherry Loughran

Lynn Wittrock led the guild with a prayer to begin the meeting. Diane Badding led the meeting with discussion on having our meetings each month and showed the tentative schedule for those meetings. **Old Business:** 1) DCCW- the Guild will pay \$90 plus the \$610 to the Diocese for dues. 2) -Laptop- The Guild will purchase a computer with side calculator and Quickbooks will also be purchased. Deb moved that we purchase this, seconded by Diane. **New Business:** 1)-World Day of Prayer- it was suggested that one of the Ladies Guild attend on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2) -Wine and Cheese Party - Finance Committee sponsors this and we will decorate, etc. 3) -Dedication for the new Center will be planned. 4) -It was decided all meetings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month unless three or more cannot attend. All emails and phone numbers were collected. 5) -Thank you cards were received from the Advent Party.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Quandt, Secretary

**Our Stewardship: December 2011****Parish Income:**

<i>Adult Church Support</i>	\$ 167,870.64
<i>Youth Church Support</i>	159.23
<i>Loose Offerings Church Support</i>	1,904.00
<i>DAA from Diocese</i>	16,371.34
<i>Non-Parishioner Receipts</i>	2,474.64
<i>Candle &amp; Prayer Book Income</i>	379.00
<i>Rugmaker's Income</i>	1,200.00
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>	1,627.30
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 191,986.15</b>

**Parish Expenses:**

<i>Priest Salary &amp; Auto Allowance</i>	\$ 1,725.00
<i>Religious Education Salary</i>	732.77
<i>Music Director Salary</i>	2,978.83
<i>Pastoral Minister Wages</i>	1,260.25
<i>Secretary Wages</i>	3,108.88
<i>Janitor Wages</i>	815.44
<i>Housekeeper Wages</i>	208.04
<i>Lay Employees' Benefits</i>	1,650.41
<i>Telephone</i>	155.73
<i>Supplies Altar &amp; Church</i>	468.79
<i>Office Supplies</i>	474.06
<i>Education Ministry Expenses</i>	300.18
<i>Fair Share Envelopes</i>	939.05
<i>Postage &amp; Printing</i>	1,141.79
<i>Food &amp; Provisions</i>	166.95
<i>Utilities-Gas, Electricity, Water</i>	1,218.83
<i>Miscellaneous Expense</i>	1,026.18
<i>Globe Assessment</i>	485.94
<i>KCSS Assessment</i>	78,288.00
<i>Property &amp; Liability Insurance</i>	1,096.60
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 98,241.72</b>

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Haiti - Notre Dame de Lourdes	\$ 1,340.89
Christmas Collection	\$ 8,204.00

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Thank you "Rugs for Church"!**

Rugs for Church donated \$1,200.00 to St. Lawrence. If you want to help make rugs, you can join us on Friday afternoons from 1-4pm at Holy Spirit Convent basement. Also, if you have any polyester knit material to donate or wish to place an order for a rug, call Kathy Kraus 792-3025. All proceeds are divided between St. Lawrence & Holy Spirit churches.



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Carroll, IA 51401

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Carroll, IA  
Permit #179

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Inside this issue:

<i>It Seems To Me</i>	1
<i>Iowa Catholic Conference</i>	2
<i>Our Stewardship, December 2011</i>	3
<i>Reports: Finance Council Minutes, Ladies Guild Minutes</i>	3
<i>Ministry Schedule for February</i>	White
<i>February Calendar</i>	Pink
<i>Haiti Mission</i>	Pink

**STEPPING STONES (January)**

**Baptized in Christ:**

Taylor Ann Heithoff (daughter of Mike & Tricia Heithoff)

**Died in Christ full of Hope in the Lord:**

- +Helen Sieve (January 2)
- +Leone Schaefer (January 12)



**“WELCOME YOUR CHILD”**

**Baptism Preparation Classes for Parents.**

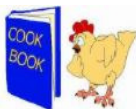
Will be held **February 7, 2012** at 7:00 pm in  
St. Lawrence Rectory Meeting Room.

Parents awaiting the birth of their child or those planning to present their child for baptism in the next few months are asked to attend. Please call the rectory to register. 792-9244.



**St. Lawrence Parish Invites You  
To Come and Enjoy!**

**Staley’s Chicken Dinner**



**Sunday, February 12, 2012  
4:00pm –6:30pm St. Lawrence Gym**

**Dinner Menu: Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Homemade Salads, Pie or Dessert, Roll & Beverage**

**Adults /\$8.00 Children 5-12 /\$5.00**

**Children 4 & under /Free**

**Carry-Out Available \$8.00/meal**

**Sign-up sheets in all entrances.**

**Sign-up to work and/or bring pies, salad or dessert.**

**Food can be brought in Sat. Feb. 11th 2:00-4:00pm  
or Sun. Feb. 12th after 1:00pm.**

If you are not available to work or bake for the chicken dinner please consider a donation to help cover our expenses.

**Mission to Haiti**

Tickets are bought and shots are taken for the group of four visiting our sister parish. Jim White and his daughter, Maureen, are joining Shirley Molitor and Deacon Tim on the trip February 8-15. Your prayers for a fruitful trip are appreciated. We can take bed sheets and towels (clean, used is fine) for the nursing home there, call Deacon Tim about these 792-0513. Donations to fund the trip can be made out to St. Lawrence Haiti Mission

**Annual Saint Lawrence Parish  
Raffle / Wine & Cheese Social**

**March 3, 2012**

**after the 4:00 pm Mass  
at the St. Lawrence Cafeteria**

**6-\$500. 8-\$250. 25-\$100.**



**Plus 20 Carroll Chamber Bucks \$10. Door Prizes  
Drawing is at 5:30 pm - Need not be present to win!**

**Ticket - \$25.00 Donation**