

MOVING FORWARD *on our* JOURNEY

ST. BENEDICT PARISH AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015



“If we all live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25

As we review our journey of the past year, it is clear and affirming to realize that our efforts reflect a deep appreciation for our parish legacy and mission. At St. Benedict, our faith community thrives because of the energizing spirit that empowers our five commissions. We live in the Spirit and we walk in the Spirit. *The result?* We continue to move forward on our journey bringing the love, peace and light of Christ to each person to whom we minister and teach.

This annual report captures a year’s worth of work and effort from hundreds of employees, parishioners, school families, R.E. families, alumni and community volunteers that help our mission move forward.

We walk together in the Spirit, and the Spirit is alive in us. We are especially proud of the following:

- Our Parish entered last fiscal year, for the first time in decades, without any debt;
- A growing sense of vitality continued to permeate our parish; in all five of our commissions, we saw the impact of that vitality;
- By adding an additional Sunday morning mass, we were able to accommodate more parishioners and their loved ones at our Eucharistic celebration in an intimate, welcoming manner;
- After years of planning, we journeyed forward into a capital campaign with faith, confidence and hope, yet still uncertain of the potential of such a campaign;
- We grew in partnership with other parishes: St. Andrew with our Annual Parish Mission and a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and Our Lady of the Snows with our Sharing Parish relationship;
- We formed the faith of the largest student population the parish school and religious education programs have experienced in many years.

This year’s annual report showcases the spirit of St. Benedict Parish and Preparatory School - what we hold dear, and what, by journeying together in faith, we’ve accomplished so far. It also sets forth the plan to guide our future as we continue to move forward in faith. Finally, this report demonstrates our humble gratitude for all the generous donors who bless us in so many ways. We journey together in spirit, and because of this, we are truly grateful and truly blessed.

Thank you for walking with us as, together, we continue to move our beloved worshipping community forward.

*From Father Jason Malave
and the St. Benedict Parish and
Preparatory School Staff*



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PASTORAL COUNCIL

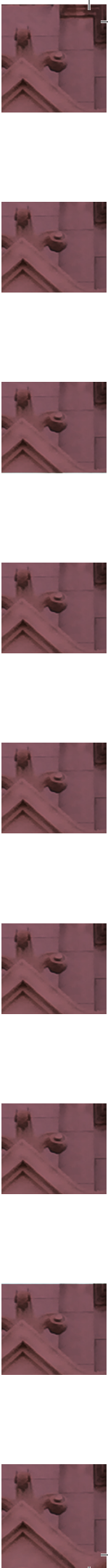
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Moving Our Parish Forward: **PARISH LIFE**

Wonderful vitality can be seen in the ministries of our Parish Life Commission. These community building ministries are an out-growth of our weekly gathering around the Eucharistic table. We gather there first, around the table of our Lord, and hear that sending message, “Go in peace to serve the Lord”. This compels us to serve one another and to build up the Body of Christ. These ministries

cover the range of our life span, from Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, to large parties like BenFest, Ball & Auction and Oktoberfest, to our senior ministries. Across the spectrum we gather to celebrate our life in Christ. A few highlights:

- Now entering its fifteenth year, every new parishioner receives a phone call from the Welcoming Committee inviting them to be recognized as a new parishioner. Once an agreed upon Mass time is set, every new parishioner who responds to the welcome call receives a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine reminding them of the Eucharistic celebration of which they have become a member. This tradition has become a storied and anticipated part of our St. Benedict parish.
- Because of the vital influx of the children in our neighborhood and supported by the dynamic ministry of our school, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops are thriving at St. Benedict. Starting from the ground up, our Boy Scout troop has been re-energized and our many Girl Scout troops struggle to find available space to meet. This is a great moment for our church and for all parents who strive to raise well rounded children and to teach our faith.
- Finally, both our BenFest and Ball & Auction events exceeded goals for our “fun raising” and “fundraising”. BenFest 2014 raised over \$50,000 as our community celebrated our patron, St. Benedict. The Ball & Auction raised over \$300,000 as we supported the ministry of our Preparatory School.



PARISH LIFE COMMISSION MINISTRIES

BenFest	Holy Name Society
Ben's Buds	Hospitality
Bingo	Knights of Columbus
Boy Scouts	Ladies Society
Cub Scouts	Oktoberfest
Girl Scouts	RCYA-Young Adult Ministry
Daisies	Welcoming Committee
Brownies	Women's Book Club
Facility Committees	

Moving Our Parish Forward: **ST. BENEDICT PARISH TRANSFORMATION**

The Parish Transformation process, started in 2014, celebrates the gift of our parish by making our parish stronger and more effective in fulfilling the mission that Jesus has entrusted to His Church. The ultimate goal of the process was to learn new ways of looking at parish life, to adopt new pastoral and fiscal practices where it is advantageous, and to initiate an ongoing review and refinement of the mission and vision of the parish at regular intervals.

St. Benedict Parish Transformation Objectives & Action Plan:

- Modernize and unify communications to reach to all active, non-active and potential parishioners
- Re-invigorate and expand adult religious education programming
- Establish our catechetical program around life milestones
- Connect families to catechesis and Mass
- Become fearlessly welcoming and move people outside of comfort zone
- Re-evaluate and educate all on parish ministries
- Proudly champion our parish preparatory school's Vision of Excellence 2016 Plan
- Support in strengthening Catholic Identity across entire block
- Teach stewardship and increase giving of time, talent, and treasures
- Design and plan for future capital needs



Forward in Our Faith: **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

In the last years of his leadership, Cardinal Francis George invited every parish to embark upon a capital campaign to support the needs of parishes and the needs of the Archdiocese of Chicago. This campaign, To Teach Who Christ Is., established a goal for each parish to raise 1.3% of their annual Sunday offering. For St. Benedict Parish, this translated to \$1 million. Having just completed our Parish Transformation Pastoral Plan and having completed our Campus Master Plan that identified the needs and future improvements to our campus, our parish was ready to accept the challenge of a Capital Campaign. Knowing, however, the extraordinary needs of our Parish, we decided to significantly raise the goal of our own campaign and seek \$6.2 million instead of the \$1 million goal of the Archdiocese. With the help of excellent consultants, we launched our Forward in our Faith campaign to address the following:

- New roof and tuck-pointing for our Church as she quickly approaches her 100th birthday in 2017.
- An exciting new addition to our School, connecting our east and west wings through the courtyard, to house our new learning center and three new classrooms to accommodate our growth.
- Support for the Archdiocese of Chicago as a new endowment is established to sustain teaching our faith in Jesus to the generations to come, especially meant to support parishes needing assistance to carry out that mission.



Our campaign began quietly in January 2015 with conversations with those who would become our Steering Committee for the campaign. Like concentric circles, the conversations continued, parishioner to parishioner, expanding the scope of involvement until hundreds of households were invited to make a five year pledge to the campaign. This phase generated over \$4.5 million in pledged gifts to St. Benedict Parish to accomplish the above goals! A profound word of gratitude to those listed on the following pages, who participated in the first wave of pledging. While the first wave of pledging has ended, we are still receiving pledges weekly from parishioners who want to be a part of this exciting campaign. If you have not had a chance to participate, won't you consider a gift?



Donor Pledges and Gifts to the Forward in Our Faith Capital Campaign thru October 2015

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 Jorge and Aurora Cortes
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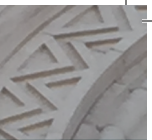
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Together On Our Journey: **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Our beautiful and prayerful liturgy was an area of focus during the Parish Transformation Process 2013-2014. Specifically, we hoped to create a sense of welcome for all and a friendly atmosphere for families. One of the ways to accomplish this was to offer more opportunities for worship given the crowded nature of the 10 am Mass. The implementation of a new Mass schedule in August 2014 met this goal by spreading our worship community across four Masses instead of three. People are no longer searching for a place to sit and liturgies have become more welcoming and less crowded. The largest ministry of the Spiritual Life Commission is the Liturgy Committee. This committee organizes hundreds of people for our weekly liturgies. All the ministries of the Spiritual Life Commission continue to grow and thrive.

A few additional highlights:

- New ministries included new energy around our joint parish mission with St. Andrew's parish, a spiritual reading group for women, spiritual direction possibilities for all parishioners, and dream interpretation gatherings.
- Our Filipino community enjoys new dynamism around the annual Christmas novena Mass called Simbang Gabi, welcoming hundreds to our campus for Mass and Dinner.
- For over two decades, women of our parish have been gathering for the Annual "Christ Renews His Parish" retreat in the spring. This gathering has touched hundreds of lives by bringing people closer to Christ and His Church.

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION MINISTRIES

Liturgy Committee
Eucharist Ministry
Lector Ministry
Art & Environment Committee
Liturgy Writers
Music Ministry
Ushers
Family Mass
Altar Servers
Children's Liturgy of the

Word
Sacristans
6:30 PM Mass Liturgy Coordinator
6:30 PM Music Director
Christ Renews His Parish
Holy Thursday Seder Meal
Wedding Coordinators
Parish Mission
Parish Library
Simbang Gabi
Bible Study

Centering Prayer
Lectio Divina
Spiritual Direction
Spiritual Dream Group



Fr. Robert Pajor joined St. Benedict Parish in July of 2015 as our Associate Pastor





Together On Our Journey: **CATECHESIS**

For catechesis at the parish last year, we were able to journey forward with children, their families, and our parish catechists and school teachers in very specific ways.

Based upon what was learned from parishioners during parish transformation, an identified need was to add a day for religious education classes. For years, only a Sunday morning program was held for children who attended local public schools. In September 2014, we expanded the religious education program so that it would be held on two days, Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Parents selected one day for their child or children to attend Grades 1 – 8 religious education classes (Sunday or Wednesday). Pre-K and Kindergarten classes would still be held only on Sunday mornings due to the time of day Wednesday evening classes were held. The response to these new Wednesday evening classes was thrilling! The parish religious education program was able to serve 60 additional children and their families simply by offering an additional day. Likewise, people called to the ministry of catechesis who were unable to serve on Sunday mornings were now able to volunteer for Wednesday evenings.

Many parish catechists and school teachers made a commitment to grow in their own faith lives through taking catechist certification courses, which are held at St. Ben's and other neighboring parishes under the title "Fostering Faith Institute." Any adult can take these courses to learn more about the four pillars of the Church, but any catechist who does so also obtains certification credit. Thus, after five 10-hour courses are successfully completed, a catechist becomes certified with the Archdiocese of Chicago. Last year, we had volunteer parish catechists for the religious education program enrolled in these classes as well as RCIA catechists, a few adult parishioners, and our parish school teachers through a very similar offering via the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein. As the catechists and school teachers journey with their instructors and each other, they not only learn how to pass on the faith but also grow in their own relationships with Jesus Christ.

CATECHETICAL COMMISSION MINISTRIES

Religious Education
Adult Education
Baptismal Preparation
Marriage Preparation

Children's Liturgy of the Word
RCIS – Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

SPRED – Special Religious
Development
Teen Ministry



Journeying With Our Brothers and Sisters: **HUMAN CONCERNS**

In many and varied ways, the ministries of the Human Concerns Commission heed the words of St. Benedict to “let all guests who arrive be received like Christ.” Not only do we gladly welcome all who come through our doors, we also heed our Gospel call to reach out to our neighbors in the community. In moments of vulnerability as well as in thriving times we walk with each other and support one another as a parish community.

One of the key ways we have journeyed with our neighbors in need is through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. During the week before Christmas, the Society delivered baskets of food containing a full Christmas dinner to 37 families. The Society also worked with individuals and families who came to St. Benedict Parish in need of emergency financial assistance, distributing over \$5300 in rent, utilities, food, and transportation assistance. In addition to assisting individuals, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul generously supported our community partner, The Common Pantry, with a \$1000 grant to help purchase school supplies for children who participate in The Common Pantry’s programs.

As a parish worshipping community, we not only accompany those who are struggling; we also support each other in our efforts to be good stewards of our minds and bodies. The St. Benedict Health Care Committee took an active role this past year in promoting healthy habits among our parish and community members by hosting a fitness and nutrition expert who gave practical tips on eating well and exercising. In addition, a third weekly Zumba class was added, as well as a brand new weekly yoga class. The Health Care Committee also journeys with those in need by offering a bi-annual blood drive for LifeSource, collecting over 40 units of blood to help save lives.

In March 2015, St. Benedict was thrilled to welcome Sr. Helen Marie Kling to join the ranks of the Human Concerns Commission. Sr. Helen has joyfully and energetically journeyed with our senior citizens in the parish and wider community by reaching out to the North Center Senior Center, St. Paul’s House, and other community organizations. Under her leadership, the Ministers of Care have flourished in their important ministry of bringing the Eucharist to those who are not able to worship with us due to illness.

This past year we also continued journeying forward with our sharing parishes by supporting our national sharing parish, Our Lady of the Isle in Louisiana, with a \$3,000 annual gift as well as a \$10,000 annual gift to our local sharing parish, Our Lady of the Snows. Financial support is just one aspect of our relationship with Our Lady of the Snows as our communities continue to support each other through prayer and regular invitations to participate in parish events. We look forward to future opportunities to deepen our relationship as we journey forward together.

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION MINISTRIES

Common Food Pantry
Easter Dinner
Thanksgiving Dinner
Christmas Dinner

Health Committee
Immigration Reform
Minister of Care
Minister of Praise

St. Vincent DePaul Society
Sharing Parish



Sr. Helen Marie Kling

Moving Forward On Our Journey: **FACILITIES**

Our parish buildings are the vehicles with which we grow as a community of faith. Throughout the last year, our parish continued to move forward on this journey of faith through the completion of many building projects and updates to our physical plant. We have completed the following deferred exterior building maintenance and safety projects:

- tuck pointing on the south facade wall of the school
- cornice repair work on the school building
- an engineering study of the church
- tuck pointing of the second floor west elevation of the church
- replacement of the gym roof
- additions to our security camera system
- a new fireproof theater curtain for the gym
- emergency lighting upgrade for the school building
- updating of the Wi-Fi in building 4
- replacement of air-conditioning compressor in building 3
- replaced damaged coils in SS gym AC unit

As part of our Parish Transformation initiative, a Facilities Master Plan was envisioned, and its creation has provided the parish with a roadmap to tackle future needs of the parish. The Parish Facilities Committee continues to navigate through this roadmap ensuring that we remain good stewards not only of our parish buildings, but also of the financial resources required to ensure these buildings remain in solid condition for future generations. The next step of the Parish Facilities Committee is to address the capital projects proposed in Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan. Building off the engineering study of the church completed last year, the committee has begun to move forward in selecting an architectural firm to define the scope of work needed for the tuck pointing and roof of the church building. Construction of this project is slated for spring 2016. The committee has also begun to look at programming for the new two-story school addition which will provide for additional classrooms, meeting areas, and new learning opportunities. These projects are all possible only because of your generosity to the Forward in Our Faith capital campaign. Additional projects in the general budget proposed for this new fiscal year include:

- re-tiling and updating of seven classrooms; creation of a new classroom in the secondary school library (completed this summer)
- courtyard patching and re-stripping (completed this summer)
- continue Wi-Fi updates to additional school buildings
- replacement of our outdated phone and voicemail system around the block

Our parish maintenance department continues to strategically locate, address and correct the many deferred general maintenance items to ensure that our parish utilities continue to operate at premium efficiency and in correct working order. We believe that our parish has a solid team of players to continue providing superior maintenance for our parish community.



The Journey of School Improvement: **HOW FAR WE HAVE TRAVELED AND NEXT STEPS**

Spring 2011 saw significant restructuring and re-visioning of the PK-12 parish school guided by the strategic plan, Vision of Excellence 2016. The newly unified school advisory board aligned the mission, vision and governance of the elementary and high school into a “one school” model. In 2011, we were in a time of tremendous transition and change, as we dismantled well-worn structures and created a fresh, innovative and distinctive parish school. As the community engaged in this strategic-planning process, it was sometimes commented that the plan would just sit on a shelf and collect dust. We are proud to declare that this was not the case! With the leadership of the advisory board, engaged parent groups, hard-working teachers and staff, the administration team, and our new pastor, Father Jason Malave, much of the strategic plan, Vision of Excellence 2016 has been completed. Our parish school has experienced tremendous growth over the past five years and we’ve reached several milestones. We are proud to highlight some significant accomplishments from Vision of Excellence 2016 from the past five years:

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- Unified the mission of the school
- Expanded campus ministry and retreat programs to Grades 6-12
- Established senior capstone project as a part of the portfolio program
- Implemented parent education and catechetical sessions
- Reviewed Religion/Theology texts and upgraded PK-12 religion curriculum
- Established sharing parish partnership with Our Lady of the Snows
- Established St. Benedict Secondary School House System
- Implemented Catechetical Professional Development for Teachers

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Aligned PK -12 curriculum (coordinating grade levels and departments, PK, K-5 and 6-12)
- Fostered a “College Prep” culture, especially at the high school level
- Expanded electives, advanced placement courses & foreign language choices at the secondary school (6-12) level
- Incorporated inclusion education – delivering personalized, differentiated education to each student
- Strengthened the admissions process at all grade levels
- Integrated technology across all grade levels
- Invested over \$200,000 over five years for teacher professional training
- Partnered with Loyola University Chicago and Chamberlain School of Nursing
- Received AdvancED Accreditation for the PK-12 School

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

- Continued parish and school unification, integration and collaboration
- Increased participation from parent groups like the Home & School Association and High School Parent Network
- Implemented on-going collaboration across the PK-12 faculty and staff
- Re-engaged alumni through events and financial support
- Increased community partners, especially through our Protégé Program



Increased support from Big Shoulders, High Sight, Daniel Murphy and other local scholarship organizations
Increased engagement and partnership from local Catholic grammar schools
Increased support from Big Shoulders, High Sight, Daniel Murphy and other local scholarship organizations
Increased engagement and partnership from local Catholic grammar schools

OUTSTANDING FACILITY STEWARDSHIP

Outsourced campus cleaning to a third-party vendor
Strengthened Parish and School Facilities and Grounds Committee
Installed security upgrades and enhanced security procedures and practices across the campus
Implemented a web-based facility scheduling program to coordinate requests and communicate facility usage
Planned for future growth with the completion of the Campus Master Facilities Plan

FINANCIAL BEST PRACTICES & DEVELOPMENT

Improved financial reporting and planning
Increased enrollment while raising admission standards and costs
Improved tuition collection and reduced amount of delinquent tuition
Increased fundraising successes across the parish and school – Ball and Auction, Fund Our Future, BenFest, etc.
Retired all parish and school loans
Implemented an emergency facilities savings account
Started an endowment for parish and school Catholic education
Kicked off a parish and school capital campaign

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

Updated branding for the school
Created a new website for the school and aligned website with new parish website
Renewed admissions materials and admissions process
Aligned parish and school branding and communication efforts
Increased usage of Facebook to promote school events and achievements

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Restructured school boards into one school advisory board with new bylaws and committee structure
Created and implemented an effective new board training and retreat program
Aligned board committees with the strategic plan, Vision of Excellence 2016
Created new meeting format and committee report templates

As you can see, the St. Benedict Preparatory School community has been quite busy over the past five years. We've worked together to move our parish school forward, and we should be proud of all that has happened. Our parish school is distinctly different than it was back in 2011.

As this part of our journey is coming to a close, we will begin embarking on a new journey, our newest strategic plan. During the 2015-16 school year, our school advisory board will be selecting an outside firm to guide us through our next 5 year strategic plan. In this plan, we aim to revisit our parish school mission and purpose, identify aspirations for the school and address the challenges we face. Again, we find ourselves in a time of transition and opportunity as the landscape of Catholic parishes and schools change, as our parish community invests in a generous way through the capital campaign, and as demographic trends of our local community continue to challenge all city public, private and Catholic schools on the northside of Chicago.

The Vision of Excellence 2016 strategic plan incorporated the feedback, hopes and aspirations of our community six years ago. This year, we will be calling on our parish and school community once again to provide feedback and thoughts on the plan for the parish school. When you are asked to complete a survey or participate in a focus group or feedback session, we ask you to respond with thoughtfulness and heart. Six years ago, our community's engagement made all the difference and gave us hope and direction to accomplish so much. From the list above, you can see how powerful this engagement can be. We thank all those who helped accomplish the goals of Vision of Excellence 2016 and we look forward to the creation of the next strategic plan.



Forward Together, Including All: The SBPS Inclusion Program **HOW THE CHRISTOPHER L. AND M. SUSAN GUST FOUNDATION HAS BLESSED OUR SCHOOL**

In the Spring of 2011, the St. Benedict Preparatory School community, guided by the strategic plan, Vision of Excellence 2016, completed the first year of significant restructuring and re-visioning of the PK-12 parish school. It was during this time of transition that our partnership with the Christopher L. and M. Susan Gust Foundation began. This foundation gave extraordinarily generous amounts of time, talent and treasure to support our ultimate goal of being an inclusive, Catholic school that is accessible to all parish families. With this partnership, our inclusive school has been wholly transformed into a stronger learning community for each child. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Christopher L. and M. Susan Gust Foundation for their generosity and dedication to SBPS. They have inspired us to rethink education for each student, challenged us to implement inclusive practices and sparked new energy throughout our learning community. Our entire student body, faculty, and staff have benefitted from our shared passion for inclusion education.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share with the entire SBPS community how this family foundation has impacted SBPS in remarkable ways over the past four years.

THE IMPACT OF THE SBPS INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHRISTOPHER L AND M SUSAN GUST FOUNDATION OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

1) Inclusion is not a school program; it is an attitude. It is the right thing to do. It is the Catholic thing to do! When students, teachers, administration and parents are committed to inclusion education, each child is welcomed as a valued member of the community. The school community enacts procedures, programs and policies that advocate and support the foundation and framework necessary for inclusion education to thrive. How do we know we are more socially just? We hear it from our students, the ultimate “litmus test.” In the 2014, our secondary school students participated in an anonymous feedback survey and gave

GUST FOUNDATION IMPACT ON OUR STUDENTS

Because of Gust Foundation support over the years, our students have incredible learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. Students have access to innovative and updated materials. Most importantly, we are able to offer more students a St. Benedict Prep education than would be possible otherwise. Gust Foundation contributions have made an immeasurable difference in our students’ lives.

**\$20,000+
FOR
FUND OUR
FUTURE**

**\$20,000+
FOR BOOKS
AND
SUPPLIES**

**\$20,000+
FOR THE
BALL AND
AUCTION**

**INVALUABLE
SUPPORT
FOR OUR
STUDENTS**

**STUDENT
FOREIGN
TRAVEL
EXPERIENCES**

**\$15,000+ FOR
FIELD TRIPS
AND EXTRA-
CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

us a score of 3.6 on a 4 point scale that “the school has a formal structure whereby each student is well known by at least one adult advocate in the school who supports that student’s educational experience.” In the open responses provided by students in this survey, it was commonly reported that students felt welcome, that the school has a strong sense of community and that the students exhibit respect for each other. By helping teachers and staff understand and implement an “inclusive attitude,” they are able to model for our students how to be socially just. Having a school culture that is just shows how we are strongly inclusive and Catholic.



2) On our PK-12 faculty and staff – we are more consistently collaborative, flexible and professional. Over the past four years, our faculty and staff have received quality professional development in the areas of effective teaching strategies, differentiation and lesson planning. Our teachers collaborate and share with their colleagues on a regular basis. Our teachers find ways to adapt their lesson plans and assignments to meet the needs of each student. Our teachers conduct themselves in caring, professional ways. And when this doesn’t happen, the few members stand out drastically. Our great teachers have set the norm for what we expect in terms of teacher performance. Because an inclusion attitude means that teachers see each student individually our teachers work to tailor the educational experience for him or her.

3) On students – our students have grown academically, creatively, mentally and spiritually. When teachers use effective teaching strategies, work collaboratively and use differentiation strategies for the needs of each learner, our students are exposed to better teaching. Better teaching results in greater achievement for all students, not just those with special needs. The result of all students having access to a quality, college prep program? One indicator of this is the exponential growth of merit based college scholarships awarded to our high school seniors over the years. Inclusion education has benefitted the lives of so many students. This has been the greatest impact of the Christopher L. and M. Susan Gust Foundation’s generosity.

120+
TEACHERS
TRAINED

FULL-TIME
INCLUSION
FACILITATORS

ADDITIONAL
SPEAKERS,
CONSULTANTS
AND
DEVELOPMENT

**INVALUABLE
SUPPORT
FOR OUR
TEACHERS**

\$130,000+
FOR
INCLUSION
FACILITATORS

\$100,000+
IN DIRECT
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

GUST FOUNDATION IMPACT ON OUR TEACHERS

Because of Gust Foundation support over the years, our faculty and staff have benefited from extensive training and continued learning. We have been able to welcome inclusion facilitators to our faculty who support the work of our dedicated teachers. The presence of inclusion specialists, as well as access to consultants and professional development opportunities, means that our teachers have the chance to grow and learn. This has an invaluable impact on the quality of education that is offered to all St. Benedict Prep students.

Moving Catholic Education Forward: **PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM**

The value of a Catholic education is not just measured by what is taught in the classroom, but what students discover about themselves in the process. The objective of the Protégé Internship Program is to give the students the opportunity to envision what paths they should explore in life and not wait until they graduate from college to think about a career.

Words cannot adequately describe this program but perhaps by examining a few students from previous classes you will sense what this program provides for participants.

Let's take a look at a few:



HAIKANARUMI LARA, CLASS OF 2012, recently wrote to update us on her journey since graduating. Haika was immediately hired by 'Birthways', her Protégé Internship Partner, and worked part time around her college schedule. She became a Labor Support Doula and helped 22 families during labor and delivery. She was recently accepted by Bastyr University and has moved to Seattle to work on her Master of Science in Midwifery. She said she will "always be grateful for the opportunity" to be a part of this amazing program.



LUIS LOPEZ REICHLING, CLASS OF 2014, was unsure what field he wanted to pursue but thought it would involve either theatre or writing. As a result, his internship was split between Raven Theatre and the 47th Ward office where he had his own column (Arts and Culture in the 47th Ward) in Alderman Pawar's weekly newsletter. After attending the Florence, Italy campus of NYU for a year, Luis transferred to the London School of Economics and is majoring in Political Science. He attributes his new direction to the environment he was exposed to through working at the ward office.



CATIE SUGRUE, CLASS OF 2015, is an artist who interned at the Chicago Mosaic School and found her passion in a new medium. She had the opportunity to teach a class to a group of students who had come from Italy to study at the school. Catie was hired for the summer and will return to a part time position upon her return from Paris where she is currently studying French at the Sorbonne. She recently stated "It's was so much more than a job! In my experience, my co-workers became my family. Something I will cherish forever."

This program has changed lives!

New partners in our program this past spring offered an even wider range of experiences and potential career choices of our students. New placements of internships included: Advanced Spine and Sports Care, Chicago Mosaic School, Alexander Graham Bell Elementary, Wolverine Trading, Raila & Associates, P.C., and Heartland Alliance. Partners that continued to welcome our interns were: Altair Advisers, AthletiCo, Duke Animal Hospital, Lake Shore Schools, Raven Theatre, Tampico Beverages, Weiss Memorial Hospital, Coonley Elementary, Yvonne's Dance Academy, and State Representative Sarah Feigenholtz's offices.

Your Support Moves St. Benedict Parish and School Forward

Each year, St. Benedict Preparatory Parish and School rely on the generosity from alumni, school families, parishioners, the community, foundations and friends to help us remain innovatively mission driven. We are truly grateful for the many parish and school leaders and volunteers who give so generously to make all our events a great success!

BENFEST JULY 2014 \$56,996

This parish summer festival in honor of St. Benedict is split between the parish and school. Two-thirds of the proceeds go to support the school. This event and Bingo are the two forms of parish support for the school. We definitely thank the BenFest chairs and volunteers, particularly BenFest 2014 Chair, Jennifer Petrillo and the leadership committee. We also would like to give a big round of applause for the BenFest 2015 committee who raised over \$31,000 for the parish and school.

1ST ANNUAL BELL TOWER OPEN \$6,007

In an effort to support our parish and school endowment for Catholic education, several parishioners got together to organize and host our First Annual Bell Tower Open golf tournament. A mix of golf, laughter, friendship and fun goes a long way to support an important cause – affordable Catholic education for parish families. Thanks to Pete Quinn, Dave Keenan, Max Nutkowitz, Alfredo Alvarez, and Jeff Remotigue for their leadership. We look forward to this annual fall event classic.

BINGO 2014-15 \$28,214

Each Tuesday, parishioners and community members gather to play Bingo in the gym. This weekly event helps to support the school scholarship program. Thanks to Daralis and Gary Oliver and the Bingo volunteer regulars who make this fundraiser a success. Congratulations on a fine year!

OKTOBERFEST 2014 \$12,224

Carnival rides, beer and German music in the courtyard can only mean ONE thing! It's OktoberFest at St. Benedict! This family affair brought in \$12,000 for parish needs. Thanks to the OktoberFest 2014 Committee for a fun weekend and a successful fundraiser!

ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER \$4382

Each year, the St. Benedict Athletic Association, hosts a fundraising party for music lovers and revelers alike. Last year's SBTV theme brought out the best and worst in TV show costumes and characters as we danced the night away. The funds raised from this event go to support the replacement of the gym roof in conjunction with Fund Our Future Appeal. Thanks to John Lynch, Rick Petrillo, Chris Deakins, and Joe Accardi for spearheading the 2015 event! We hear this coming year's event will have some new surprises to keep all engaged...stay tuned!

ST. BENEDICT PREP 14TH ANNUAL BALL AND AUCTION MY FAIR CHICAGO \$302,000

Thanks to Ball and Auction Co-Chairs, Kathy Goetz and Tricia Boguslawski and their committee of dedicated volunteers, last year's event at Germania Place was the most successful since its inception 14 years ago with over 525 attendees. Last year's Ball and Auction netted \$299,502. Ten percent of the proceeds were directed to the Build our Future facilities savings with \$25,000 going towards the purchase of Interactive Projectors and Laptops for the elementary classrooms. The rest of the funds go to support the school program and curricular costs. Congratulations on a job well done!



MOVING FORWARD *on our* JOURNEY

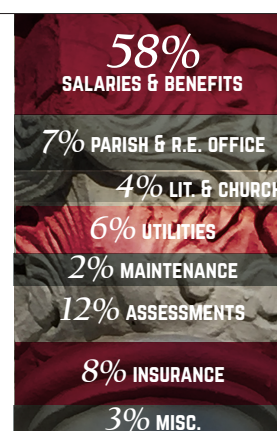
2014- 2015 St. Benedict Parish and Preparatory School Annual Report

Financials: CHURCH

<i>Church Income</i>	13/14	14/15
Collections	\$763,670	\$ 798,433
Religious Education Tuition and Fees	\$59,358	60,054
Lease and Rental Income	\$24,921	33,455
Fundraising	\$95,359	46,085
Miscellaneous	\$76,675	80,413
Total:	\$1,019,983	\$1,018,440



<i>Church Expense</i>	13/14	14/15
Salaries and Benefits	\$526,109	\$565,488
Parish and Religious Education Office	\$60,843	64,449
Liturgical and Church	\$14,137	35,132
Utilities	\$55,922	55,633
Building Maintenance and Repair	\$32,675	23,423
Archdiocesan Assessments	\$135,140	121,124
Property and Casualty Insurance	\$75,113	75,620
Miscellaneous	\$18,521	30,494
Total:	\$918,460	\$971,363

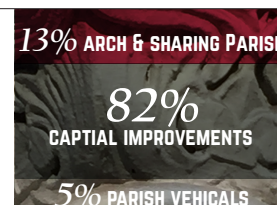


Net Church Operating: \$101,523 \$ 47,077

<i>Parish and School Extraordinary Income</i>	13/14	14/15
Archdiocesan and Sharing Parish		
Collections	\$63,394	\$ 83,101
Bequests and Memorials	\$97,629	550
Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate	\$38,266	41,771
Matching Debt Reduction from the Archdiocese	\$278,159	-
Build Our Future Collections	\$69,341	48,190
Endowment and Scholarship Appeals	\$97,575	123,701
Insurance Recoveries	\$2,750	-
Forward in Our Faith	\$ -	111,261
Miscellaneous	\$92,118	-
Total:	\$739,232	\$408,574



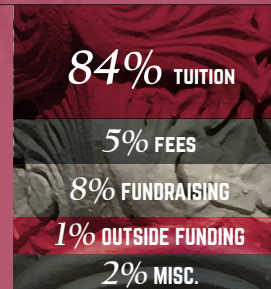
<i>Parish and School Extraordinary Expense</i>	13/14	14/15
Archdiocesan and Sharing Parish		
Distribution	\$63,394	\$ 83,101
Capital Improvements	\$204,831	540,350
Parish Vehicles	\$32,980	32,980
Total:	\$301,205	\$656,431



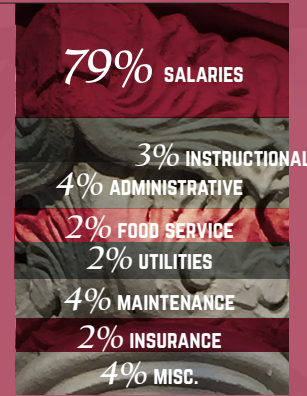
Net Parish and School Extraordinary: \$438,027 \$(247,857)

Financials: SCHOOL

School Income	13/14	14/15
Tuition	\$5,492,956	\$5,937,514
Fees	\$371,922	\$355,638
Fundraising	\$457,505	\$572,336
Outside Funding Sources	\$191,033	\$100,485
Miscellaneous	\$164,708	\$122,257
Total:	\$6,678,124	\$7,088,230



School Expense	13/14	14/15
Salaries and Benefits	\$5,035,995	\$5,441,937
Instructional	\$169,154	\$238,028
Administrative	\$274,833	\$256,634
Food Service	\$90,187	\$101,423
Utilities	\$183,401	\$135,792
Building Maintenance and Repair	\$233,534	\$292,572
Property and Casualty Insurance	\$124,010	\$129,840
Miscellaneous	\$238,925	\$272,118
Total:	\$6,350,039	\$6,868,344
Net School Operating:	\$328,085	\$219,886



CASH BALANCE Report

	Operating	Savings
Cash Balance (June 30, 2014)	\$349,972	\$621,581
Net Church Operating	47,077	-
Net School Operating	219,886	-
Net Parish and School Extraordinary	(247,857)	-
Parish Ministry Accounts	44,067	-
Prepaid Tuition Holding	(244,245)	-
Transfer from Archdiocesan Savings	89,251	(89,251)
Cash Balance (June 30, 2015)	\$258,151	\$532,330



“Throughout the last fiscal year, it is evident that our parish experienced what seems like miracles in generosity. Collectively, through our ordinary giving and our extraordinary giving, we prove ourselves to be models of Catholic stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Each and every parishioner should be proud of what continues to be accomplished here at St. Benedict Parish. We continue see incredible acts of God taking place all around us in so many ways.” - Geoff Pautsch, Director of Finance

Parishioner Sunday Worship Stewardship from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Aurea Abad
Tom Accomando
Phillip and Lisa Adams
Christina Agno and Maria Chambers
Nilsa Agosto-Venegas
Beatrice Aguado
Yaminah Alanis and Juan Capistran
Larry and Barbara Alban
Naty Alejo
Daniel Alesia
Don P. Alessi
Scott and Anne Alfrod
K. Kim Allen
Roselinda Almase
Milagros and Aimee Almendras
Olibeth Sarigumba Almendras
Ramon and Solita Alpasan
Leonard and Teresa Aluise
Lauren Amerine-Chatman
Karl and Barbara Anderson
Tom and Marzena Anderson
Carissa Androkites
Arturo and Kim Angel



Curt and Laurie Annis
Brian and Julie Annulis
Violeta Antelman
Curtis and Karen Antoniak
Jay and Sarah Anzevino
Soledad Aono
Louis and Ellen Apostolakis
Milagros Aquino
Shannon and Amy Archer
Elizabeth Arencibia
Julian and Clarita Ares
Brian and Luanne Atkinson
Stetson and Kristie Atwood
Damon and Tiffany Auer
Elenita Ayalin
Colin and Jeanette Aylward
Joseph Babbo
Tom and Debbie Babu
Kevin Bachner and Angela Greene
Henry and Lesley Backofen
Frederic and Aileen Bacon
Marilyn Bade
Maggie Bahler and Chuck Rizzio
William and Karen Baker
Milagrina Balbuena
Michael and Joan Balcsik
Quintin and Corazon Balingit
Anne-Marie Balthazar
Daniel Balys
Christopher and Julie Balzarini
Brian and Thi Ban
Craig and Anne Barclay
Laura Bardowski

Benjamin and Melissa Barfell
Mila Barja
Richard and Kathryn Barnaby
Otto and Olga Barone
Nancy Barraza-Anderson
Veronica Barrera
Dylan and Jennifer Barrett
Jenna and John Barrett
Todd and Nancy Barrett
Sarah Barrie
James and Marina Barrientos
Carla Barrios
Charlie and Teresa Patty Barszcz
Emilie Bartlett
Mike and Judy Bartley
Denise Barton
Brian and Lisa Basch
Jamie Basso
Matt Bauer and Kelly Kaiser
Kurt and Deirdra Baumstark
Loreta Bautista
Robert Bazzell and Margaret Murphy
Thomas and Justine Beck
Joe and Hang Becker
Wendy Beckman
Michael and Nancy Beebe
Danilo Belicena and Sally Sobrepena
Adrienne Bell
David and Dana Bender
Don and Janet Benedict
Angola Bennett
Michael and Nicole Benvenuto
John and Joanne Beresny
Eustacio and Elvira Berganos
Phyllis Berger
William Berkhout
Max and Yolanda Bertold
John and Maureen Bernbom
Rachel Bernhardt
John and Rachel Berschied
Adam and Jennifer Betzen
Bethany and Joseph Beyer
Donald and Carol Bianchini
Josip and Marion Bicanic
Dolores Bielski
Ursula Bielski
Cathryn Biga
Patrick and Jennifer Biladeau
Carole Bilina
Clare Billingham
Mary Biniewicz
Lazar and Wilma Bityou
Kevin and Maureen Black
Bertha Blaha
Marcelline Blake
Paul and Betty Blazek
The Blevins Family
Manfred and Julieta Blohm
Stephen and Colleen Blomgren
Michael and Michelle Blose
Richard and Deborah Bocek
Brian and Erin Bogнар
Tricia Boguslawski
Dianna Bolen
Jim and Janet Bonebrake

Diane Borowczyk
Matt and Amy Bowersox
John Bowles and Erica Mickelburgh
Elizabeth Boyle
Mark and Mary Boyle
Andrew and Lauren Bozzelli
Mary Frances Bragiel
Alfred and Elisabeth Brandt
Bill and Katy Brannigan
Alex and Jeanne Brashear
Coleman and Elise Braun
Karen Breen
Kurt and Carrie Breitlander
Melissa Breland
Keith and Rachel Brenan
John and Molly Brennan
Wesley and Angela Breton
Sue Breunig
Geraldine Brewster
Paul and Carol Brimstin
Rick and Annie Britton
Werner and Kimberly Brockerhoff
Shirley Brouwer
Donna and J.M. Bryski
Kevin and Kathleen Buchar
Greg and Tina Buchholz
Lydia Budiongan
Tricia Bulaclac
Jerry Buldak
Werner and Laura Buol
Joseph and Julie Burke
Patrick and Jennifer Burke
Robert and Andrea Burke
Christine Burkhardt
Paul Burmeister and Maria Vertuno
Ian and Allison Burns
Laura Burt-Nicholas
Aurora Bustamante
Donald and Wendy Butzen
Jerry and Annette Byrne
Matthew and Besina Calcagno
Thelma Caldwell
Andrew and Mary Lou Campa
Frank and Linda Campbell
Scott and Nancy Campbell
Jennifer Campion and Brett Maher
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 Susan Lynch
 Susie and Allen Ma
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Jillian and Daniel Mendez
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Kevin and Kittze Mendoza
Alby Mendoza and Zachariah
Celestino
Scott and Katherine Mendy
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Lisa Mersereau
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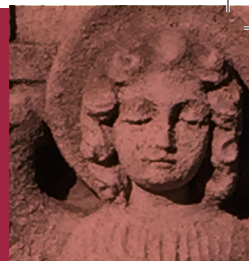
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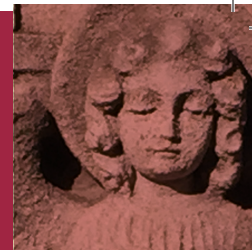
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Although every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of the Annual Report, we realize that errors may have occurred. If your name has been omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly listed, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us of the discrepancy so that we may correct our records.

A Return on Your Investment

By making a donation to St. Benedict Preparatory School, you are investing not only in our school, but in our community. St. Benedict Preparatory School is proud to announce the high school graduating Class of 2015 earned \$3.6 million in merit-based scholarships for the 2015-2016 school year.



DAKOTA CASTILLO

Received scholarship and attending University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
Received scholarship offers from Marquette University, University of Iowa, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Kansas



HARRY RHODES

Received scholarship and attending Loyola University Chicago
Received scholarship offers from Beloit College, Lawrence University, University of Illinois Chicago



HAYLEY KOGEN

Received scholarship and attending North Park University
Received scholarship offers from Saint Xavier University, Aurora University, DePaul University, Carthage College, Northern Illinois University



MALANI ROSA

Attending University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
Received scholarship offers from Loyola University Chicago, Xavier University, University of Iowa, DePaul University



LEONARD MONTEREY

Class of 2015 Salutatorian,
SBPS Legacy Scholar
Attending Knox College
Received scholarship offers from DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, Augustana College



ESEI TECLEMARIAM

Class of 2015 Valedictorian
Received scholarship and attending Kenyon College
Received scholarship offers from Augustana College, Kalamazoo College, Cornell College, Xavier University, Wittenberg University, Hope College, Depauw University, Denison University, College of Wooster, Knox College

School Mission Statement

At St. Benedict Preparatory School, we excel in educating the whole individual in the Catholic tradition, challenge students to develop their God-given talents, create a Christian community by sharing our gifts, honor the gifts and diversity of the community, and serve the Lord and each other in an ever-changing world.

The St. Benedict Preparatory School Graduate

enters post-secondary life well-rounded and prepared for learning, achievement, and service in a 21st century global society. Honoring the tradition of St. Benedict, our graduates possess the knowledge, reason, diligence, and perseverance to grow in faith, wisdom, and spirit.

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by making **your pledge**
to the annual school
parent appeal.



**OUR
GOAL**

**100% Famil Participation
by December 31, 2015**



SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

Join us for great food, drinks, dancing, and our amazing auction
at the Germana Place in Lincoln Park.



*Moving Forward,
Together.*

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