

What do we  
have to lose?

Looking in-  
to the future

Projects that  
are seen and  
unseen

WHY, "THE HOLY  
FAMILY?"

WE CELEBRATE  
THIS YEAR...

OUR INVESTMENT?  
GIFTS OF TIME  
AND TALENT  
AND TREASURE

○ Why  
Am I  
Here?

○ What am  
I To do?

○ How will  
what I do  
make a  
difference?



# The Holy Family

GROWING IN OUR FAITH IN AN EFFORT TO  
EVANGELIZE THE CHURCHED; THE UNCHURCHED;  
AND THE LOST GENERATIONS

*We celebrate the "Holy Family" this year and what it means to be a family in covenant with God. Jesus says: "Wherever two or more are gathered in my name..." therefore he wants us to be in community with Him and others.*

## Mary and Joseph Had a Rough Start

Imagine. The one chosen to be the Mother of God, was betrothed to the best guy in the village, and probably had the dream of the house on the hill with the picket fence, the kids, the motherhood and all that goes with it. And then... "The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary..." This is where her dreams ended and God's will became manifest.

You would think that if God had chosen you to be the mother and foster father of his son, that they would only have the very best. But, she was pregnant and unmarried; young; had to travel to a foreign place to have her first child; shelter in a barn within which she gave birth; death sentence on her child from Herod; fled to the pagan land of Egypt; and returned to Nazareth many years later. She lost her son to the ministry and the masses. She lost him again in his passion and death. She lost him again at his ascension. To be a Holy Family does not mean to be a perfect family, or one without difficulties. To be a Holy Family is to be like Jesus' parents. To be faithful to the call God has given us, which will sometimes conflict with our dream.



**40 hours  
Devotions**  
will occur  
**Sunday 11/15**  
**Monday 11/16**  
**Tuesday 11/17**  
**7:00 pm**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

- 9/11 Golf Tournament
- 9/15 First day Religious Ed.
- 9/17 Clergy Appreciation Dinner
- 9/26 Bon-Fire for Youth (Fatima)
- 10/4 Parish Picnic at Lion's Lake
- 10/10 Communion at St. Mary's
- 11/2 Mass of Remembrance 6:00pm
- 11/14 Winter Bazaar
- 11/15-17 40 Hours Devotions St. Ben.
- PARISH MISSION**
- 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 Evening Prayer and Pasta (St. Mary's)
- 12/5 Breakfast in Bethlehem 8am-St. Benedict
- 12/5 Night of Reflection at SJA 6pm
- 12/6 Parish Penance Service 7pm**
- 12/8 Immaculate Conception Mass
- 12/24-25 Christmas Celebration
- 1/1 Solemnity of Mary
- 1/30 Confirmation Retreat
- Fridays during Lent: "Revelation"**
- Soup and Stations at St. Benedict**
- 2/20 Reconciliation Retreat
- 3/5 First Penance
- 3/12 Communion at 10:00 2pm
- 3/22 Passion Sunday
- 3/24 Holy Thursday
- 3/25 Via Crucis: Way of the Cross
- 3/26 10:00am Food Blessing and Decorate the Church for Easter
- 3/26 Solemn Easter Vigil
- 4/24-26 Forty Hours St. Mary's
- 5/8 First Communion

# What makes a Family Holy?

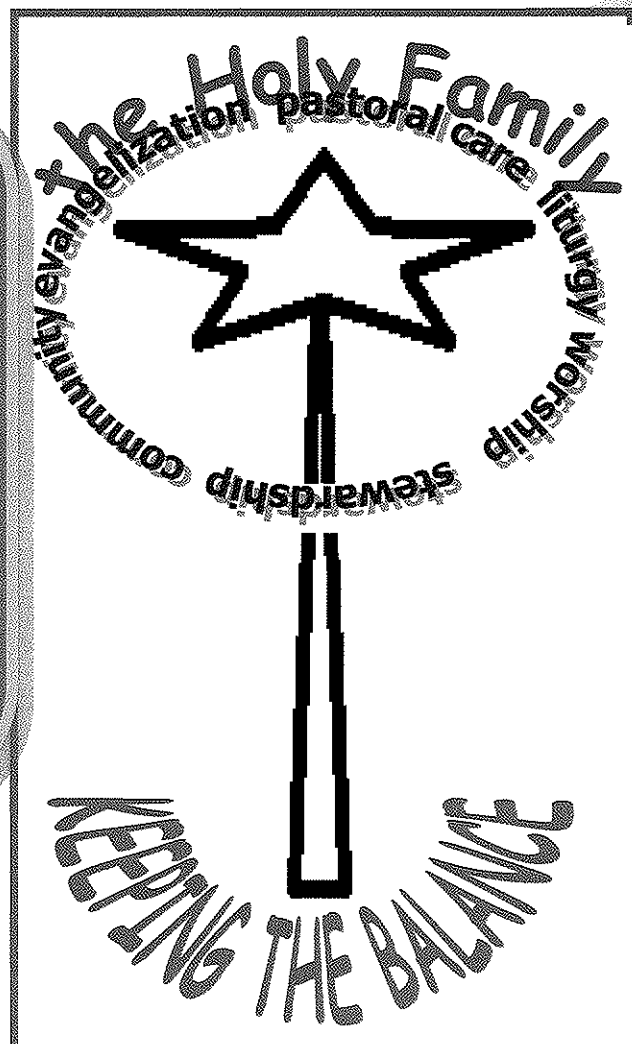
## Why am I here?

You are here, because God could have created the world without you in it... but He didn't. Why? He has created you for some great purpose, but that's the next part. Why are you here? In a Catholic Church. There are many churches, take a look around you, but you are in a Catholic Church. Why? Finally, why are you here? Why are you at St. Benedict the Abbot Church? Maybe on vacation? Maybe church hopping? Maybe convenience or going somewhere where everybody does NOT know your name....or... are you part of this family? And if not, why not? Haven't you ever wanted to belong to something bigger than your self?! Sure, there are difficulties and commitments with any family, but this family of ours will be better because YOU are in it. So if you're not part of this family, talk to the FATHER, and we'll get you in!

## What am I to do?

Whenever we want a change in life, we often look to buy something new, or start a new program, or get a new gadget. A change doesn't necessarily mean introducing something new. Sometimes, it means removing something that has crept into our life. We are all BUSY, but what does that mean. St. Paul says, stop acting like "busy bodies" and start getting busy about the stuff of the Lord. That's what we're to do. Get beyond the "selfie" get beyond the "self" and get busy. So much of our time is spent on things that really do not make us better. Amidst the sins, we know a few, but beyond that there are many social media outlets that are "chewing gum for the brain" and I would say pesticide for the soul. We need to get up, get out, and become an active member of this family called the Church. As one summer anthem puts it, "I've got a match, but I can make an explosion."

- Why am I here?
- What am I to do?
- How will what I do make a difference?



## How will what I do make a difference?

A family is only as good as the members. We all have different families, and I would venture to say that none of us had much of a choice in that, or at least very little choice. So we "love" our family, even if we don't always "like" them. That is what we are called to. The word "holy" comes from a Greek word "hagios" meaning "set apart." So holy doesn't mean we are perfect or saints on earth, but it doesn't mean we're blending in with the spirit of the world. We are set apart, because we are different from the world. Jesus said, "If the world hates you, it hated me first." Which kinda implies, if the world loves you, then you might not be teaching what I'm teaching (I paraphrased of course!). By venturing beyond our comfort zone and engaging with our parish family members, who we might not always like (but do love of course!) we are well on our way to becoming holy. This will always mean sacrifice, and sometimes enduring a little drama, but in the end, that's what makes it an adventure, right? RIGHT?



# THE HOLY FAMILY

WORD ON FIRE PICTURE SHOW FILMS

## CATHOLICIS

### Community

- Parish Festival
- Knights of Columbus
- Pig Roast
- Big Breakfasts
- Parish Picnic
- Processions and Prayer Service in the public forum
- Dances and Celebrations
- International Food Festival

### Liturgy and Worship

- 40 hours Devotions
- Mass of Remembrance (November)
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
- Liturgy of the Hours for Advent and Lent
- Las Posadas
- Cyril and Methodius Feast Day
- St. Benedict Feast Day
- Healing Mass
- Penance services
- *Via Crucis* in the Streets
- *Corpus Christi* Procession

### Faith Formation / Evangelization

- Women of Grace
- Catholicism
- Advent Series and Lenten Series
- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
- Crusillo and Ultreya
- Religious Education
- Lebanon Catholic School
- Youth Ministry
- Days of Reflection
- Crypt time for Youth
- Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage

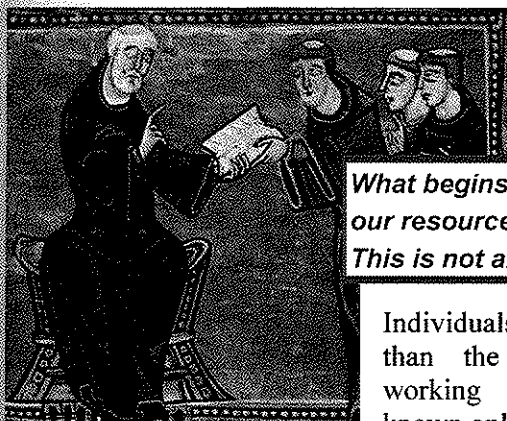
### Pastoral Care and Outreach

- Legion of Mary
- Parish Outreach
- First Friday visits
- Food Bank
- Visits to those who have left
- Brunch
- Open Crypt on Fridays
- Funeral Luncheons

### Stewardship

- Capital Campaign
- Planned Giving
- Stewardship of Talent
- Debt Reduction
- Knights of Columbus
- Talent and Time

# From Sacrifice To Sacrament



## Ora et Labora Giving

*One hour of prayer....*

*One hour of work*

This is a principle of weekly giving founded on the Benedictine principle of "Pray and Work." I ask you again this year to seriously consider this for your life. With the world climate the way it is with regards to poverty, war, abortion, attacks on morality, the environment there are plenty of reasons to pray.

There is something to be said for supporting something we believe in with something we do every day. For a working person to contribute one hour of their base pay will be a sacrifice. But anything we do which is worthwhile will require a sacrifice.

*But when you give, let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing. That you may give in secret; and your Father which sees in secret himself shall reward you. ~Matt. 6*

*What begins with our sacrificial offering of our "self" and our resources, grows into a sacramentalizing of our life. This is not an activity or a habit so much as a lifestyle.*

Individuals who give more than the value of one working hour (This is known only to them) will be asked to continue providing their gracious support. For those who do not work outside of the home, we need your physical labor here at the church.

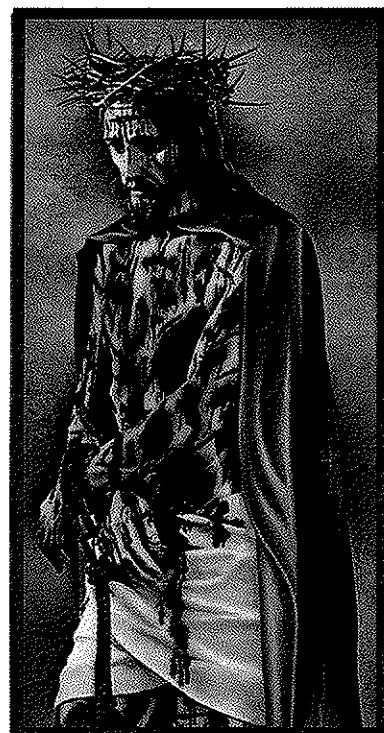


We are asking that the people of the parish pledge and maintain a level of giving at **one hour of wages per week**. This is only 2.5 % of total wages. The very least would be a fifteen dollar contribution every week. At fifteen dollars a week this would be \$780 dollars a year. Lest we forget that the Bible makes the demand of 10% of our wages and the Church validates this.

Three hundred working parishioners engaged in giving has the potential to achieve the 4,500 goal each week, necessary to pay our bills. This is only 75% of current mass attendees and is an estimation of laborers.

No one likes to experience discomfort. But discomfort and pain can often be translated into prayer when we offer it for another. The practice of fasting was employed so that through the discomfort of an empty stomach, we might be aware of the presence of God and His hands through which we have received many gifts. But we come to understand that really, *everything* is gift. We come into this world naked and without anything. We are the stewards of the treasures which are entrusted to us, and therefore, the only proper response is to return those treasures to the One who has entrusted them.

He does not want us to do this alone. He places us into a family, both a biological family and a church family. He wants us to be set apart, and sacrifice will make us different from the world in which we live. "Set apart" is what the word "Holy" means. So not just a family...but a Holy Family is what He desires.



**PARISH PENANCE  
SERVICE 7<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER 7PM**

## Advent Fridays

*December 4<sup>th</sup>*

*Laudato Si: Terrae*

*December 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Laudato Si: Humanae*

*December 18<sup>th</sup>*

*Laudato Si: Reflection*

*At St. Mary's Church*



LETTERA ENCICLICA  
**LAUDATO SI'**  
DEL SANTO PADRE  
**FRANCESCO**

SULLA CURA DELLA CASA COMUNE

**Celebrate Our Past ~ Prepare For Our Future**

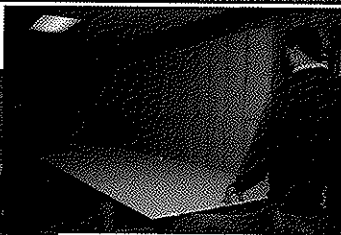


The Parish Debt currently stands at \$108 thousand and some change. This is down from \$113 last year.

## The Matching Gift

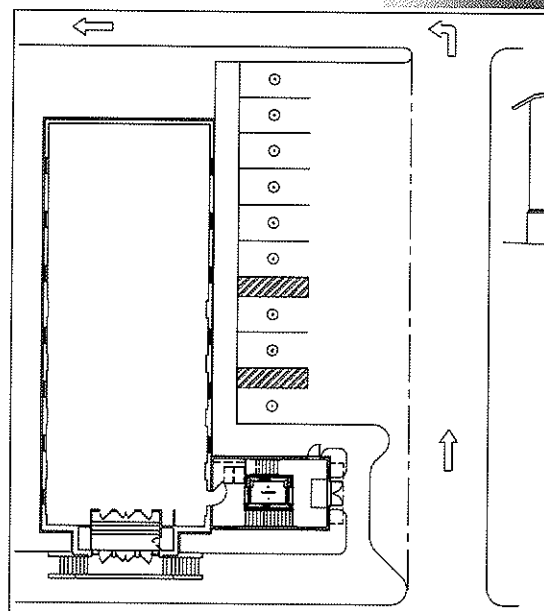
For the last six months we have benefitted from a generous donor who has matched, dollar for dollar what was contributed towards the elevator project.

From the beginning of the campaign to the end of the matching period, we obtained over \$123,477.00. which was matched with \$123,477.00! This gives us a grand total as of the end of August of \$246,954.00.



WE hope in the years ahead to complete the following projects:

- Repair Church Basement Floor **(DONE)**  
\$1,600.00
- Remodel Restrooms in Basement of Church **(DONE)** \$4,500.00
- Replace Roof Top Heating/Air-conditioning Unit in Social Hall \$4,500.00
- Replace Main Floor and Stage Area in Social Hall \$2,500.00
- Repair Leaks in Church Roof and Steeple (no estimate)
- Replace Carpeted areas in Church (no estimate)
- Paint Fencing Church Lot \$200.00
- Replace Exterior Stairs to Church Basement \$1,000.00
- Repair the Down-Spout on Church \$250.00
- Replace Parking Lights at Church \$500.00
- Replace Coolers and Freezer in Social Hall  
with New walk-in Freezer/Cooler (no estimate)
- Replace Faucet & Drains in Social Hall  
Kitchens Sink \$400.00
- Replace Lighting Fixture at School Entrance **(DONE)** \$150.00
- Install Handrails at Front Alter Stairs **(DONE)** \$150.00
- Run Hot Water to Social Hall Restrooms \$250.00
- **Provide handicap accessibility to church entrances, parking, and restrooms.** (no estimate)
- **Drain run off, regrade**
- Repair and paint interior damage to the church. (no estimate)
- Pay off the church debt.



St. Benedict the Abbot

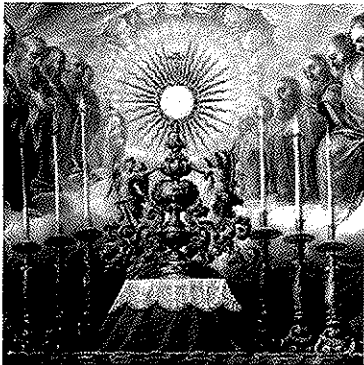
Conceptual E



# The people “in” church and the people “of” the Church.

What's the difference you ask? No? Well, then I'll ask for you. What **IS** the difference between the people “in” the church (small “c”) and the people “of” the Church (capital “C”). It appears as if there are two things that we must distinguish.

If a person walks into the church; sings the songs; prays the prayers; puts money in the collection; receives communion; stays for the final hymn and even, even greets the priest after Mass. That person; that person who is “in” the church; what is the difference between them, and you? And if there's not a difference, then that is the problem!



There was a time, not so many years ago, in a galaxy not so far away, that the Church was the center of life for the people of any town. And the church was the first thing they built. And it was not just a museum of relics harkening to a bygone age, but a vibrant, living place. The Church was a family, and you know as well as I do, you don't get to pick your family. And maybe we didn't “like” everyone but we certainly loved them. We were not simply “in” the church; in a building. We were “of” the Church...we were Catholic from the Pope all the way down to our little domestic church called the family.

Not going to Church because of hypocrites is like not going to the Gym because of the out of shape people.

So what happened? When did the Church stop being the center of our life? When we took over that position in the universe. No two objects can occupy the same space at the same time. When we took over the center, everything else went to the periphery.

Perhaps we decided there were too many hypocrites “in” the Church, so we were not going to be one of them. Perhaps we were scandalized by the actions of individuals in the Church, so we left it behind. Perhaps we just got lazy and decided it took too much effort, not to be “in” church, but to be “of” the Church. There are a million and one reasons why not to be of the Church, and yet the only reason we should be, overshadows a plethora of excuses.



If we want things to change, then we have to give up the #1 position once again, and orient ourselves around something that is so much bigger than we are. We need, once again, to put the Church at the center of our life, so that we are no longer simply visiting a building like some tourist, but we are part of a community that can exist without an edifice. That, my friends, is the Church, with a capital “C”. And we do not have to believe in it, in order for it to exist!



Make the pledge now to get involved. It does not mean that you must be a member of some group, although that's a great way to stay grounded. But to put forth an effort to be an active part of the family. To pray with the Church outside of just attending Mass on Sundays. Help in our efforts to support our Church financially. Participate in activities which foster growth in the spiritual life and community life of the Church. Don't be an island! Jesus said, “Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” He didn't say, “one or more” but “two or more.” He wants us to be a part of something bigger...a family...a Holy Family... of the Church!

BON-FIRE AND FALL FEST! SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> DON'T MISS IT!

# THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

## for Teens

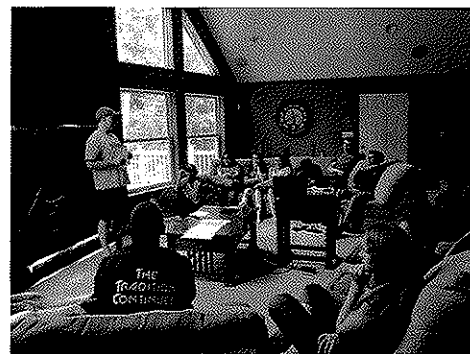
You have heard it said that  
"the Youth are the future of the  
Church,"... but I say to you, the  
Youth are the Church now!

### Tales from the Crypt

- 10/7 Opening night, 7-9pm
- 10/21 Theology of the Body
- 11/4 Theology of the Body
- 11/17\*\*"40 Hours" Devotions: Youth act as servers\*
- 12/2 Crypt Q & A night
- 12/5 Breakfast in Bethlehem\* 8am-12pm
- 12/6 Parish Penance Service 7pm
- 12/8 Immaculate Conception  
Mass 7:00pm
- 12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe  
11pm\* Mass at 12am
- 12/16 Theology of the Body
- 12/23 Church Decorating by  
Youth 12:00\*
- 12/24-25 Christmas Celebration
- 1/13 Theology of the Body
- 1/22 March for Life\*
- 1/27 Theology of the Body
- 2/10 Ash Wednesday/Crypt 7
- 2/24 Theology of the Body
- Fridays during Lent "Revelation"  
Soup and Stations\*
- 3/7 Theology of the Body
- 3/20 Parish Penance Service
- 3/24 Holy Thursday
- 3/25 Vigil at St. Vincent's Church
- 3/26 10:00am Food Blessing  
Decorate Church for Easter\*  
Solemn Easter Vigil
- 4/6 Theology of the Body
- 4/20 Theology of the Body
- 5/4 Last Crypt!
- 5/18 Closing Cook-out

\*Service Hours Possible

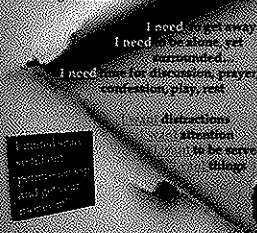
ACTUALLY, YOU HAD A  
PRETTY GREAT LIFE, BUT  
YOU WERE LOOKING DOWN  
AT YOUR PHONE AND YOU  
MISSED IT!



### TORN

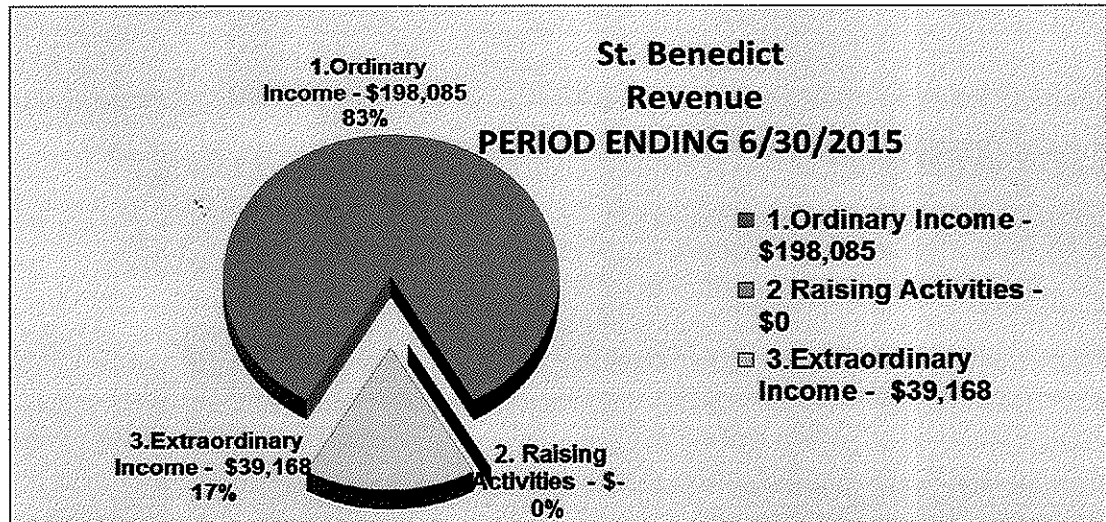
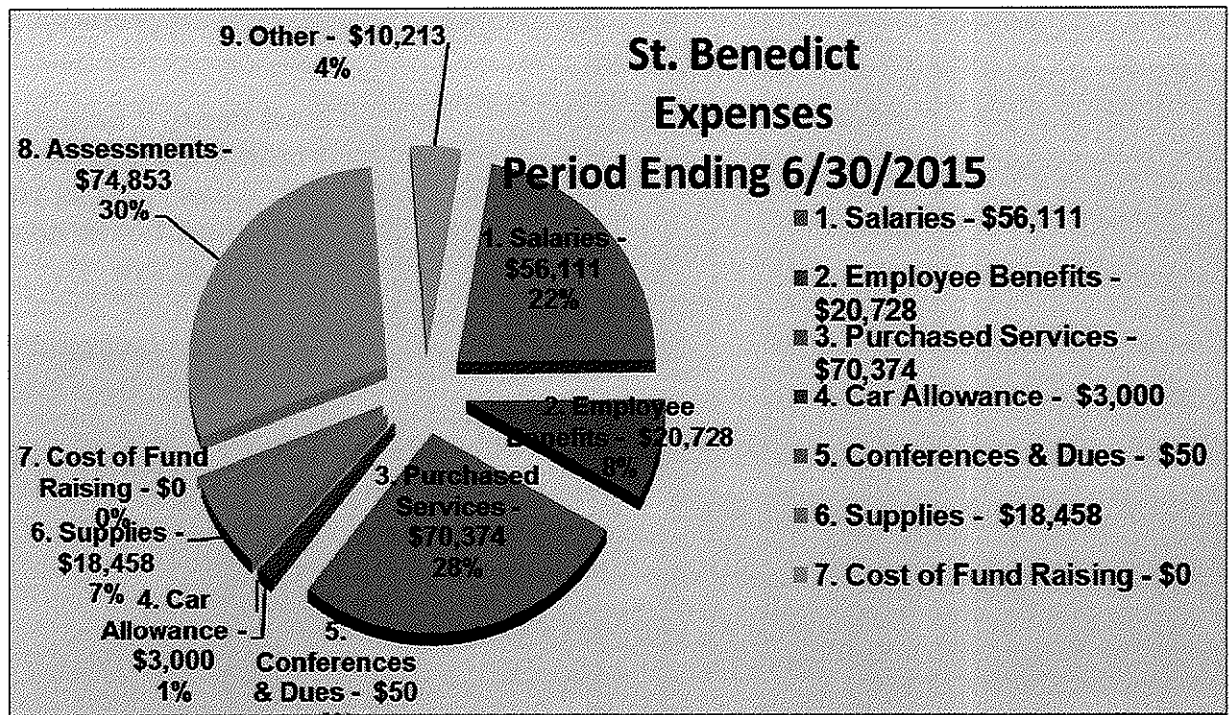
#### Youth Retreat

Monday, July 20 - Wednesday, July 22  
Cost: \$25.00 non-refundable  
Location: Middle of nowhere, PA  
Transport: Cars  
Food: Provided  
Who: High School



Wait! What's missin'? UR





### ST. BENEDICT THE ABBOT PARISH

Cash Account Summary  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 6/30/2015 - End of Fiscal Year 2014/2015

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2013-2014				Information not available		Capital Campaign		
Operating Cash	Diocese Savings	Sub-Total	Activities Account	Elevator Checking	Elevator Savings	Total Cash		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)		
Beginning balance	\$38,763	\$8,391	\$47,154	\$0	\$0	\$199,548.66		\$246,702
Deposits **	\$369,707	\$32	\$389,739	\$0	\$0	\$26,453.39		\$387,192
						\$0.00		
Withdrawals	376,122	\$0	\$376,122	\$0	\$0			\$376,122
Ending balance	<u>\$23,348</u>	<u>\$8,423</u>	<u>\$31,771</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$229,548.66</u>		<u>\$257,773</u>
Last Month ending	\$21,984	\$8,391	\$30,375	\$0	\$0	\$199,548.66		\$229,923
Net Change	\$1,364	\$32	\$1,396	\$0	\$0	\$28,453.39		\$27,848

### Loan Account Summary

Beginning balance	\$109,200
New loans	\$0
Payment on debt	\$538
Ending balance	\$108,662

\*\* Includes Diocese new loan amount.