



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton News and Father Ken's Report Autumn 2008

Dear Parishioners,

Every quarter the parish sends out a quarterly report of a family's contribution report and a report on how the parish is using your Stewardship of Finances. I have found it useful in the past to also include a pastor's report about different things or events happening in the parish from my view. This is the first installment of such a report. I hope you find it informative!

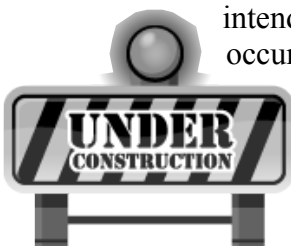
Father Ken VanHaverbeke

Parking Lot

In August you noticed that our parking lot received a face lift. We did not intend for the facelift to occur during the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, but when you arrived for Mass, there were the barricades! Sorry about that! Rain caused the scheduling to be delayed until the 15th of August.

Anyway, what was done was: crack sealing; coal tar sealer; and pavement markings. In this maintenance project we spent \$16,725. Sounds like a lot of money, but necessary as many of you know in order to prevent major reconstruction of our parking lot when winter comes with all of its' ice and snow.

Preventive maintenance is so important with a complex such as ours. As Benjamin Franklin said: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It is less expensive to perform routine preventive maintenance rather than corrective maintenance. Thanks to your faithful and consistent Stewardship of Treasure, we are able to keep ahead of problems.



The Bulletin

I've received many compliments about the new format of the bulletin. I wish I could take total credit. It is my intention to use the bulletin for catechesis (teaching) as well as announcements. A retired priest of our Diocese writes much of the bulletin that deals with liturgy and Catholic teaching. He has asked to remain anonymous. I'm so glad you are enjoying it!



Financial Update:

As I review the finances of the parish with the Finance Council, I can see a strong sense of commitment to the Stewardship Way of Life.

What I pledge to you as pastor is to be a good steward of what you have entrusted to me. I will keep a very close eye on expenses; maintain the beautiful facility; and keep good communication with you.

Me..... Father Ken

Some of you might not have been at the first weekend Masses that I celebrated or received a bulletin. Here is a bit about me:



*I am 46 years old.
Attended St.
Patrick's in
Wichita; BCHS
grad of '81;
KSU grad in*

*Biology; Emmitsburg, Maryland for
seminary.*

*My first assignment as a priest
was at the Church of the Magdalen here
in Wichita. For thirteen years I
ministered at Magdalen, both as an
associate and pastor, leading the parish
through a transition of tearing down one
church and building a new church. I
was then transferred to Saint Mary's in
Newton where I served for one year. In
2005, the Redemptorist Community left
the Diocese of Wichita, so off to Saint
Joseph's. For three years I served Saint
Joseph's then came to Mother Seton's.*

*I appreciate your continued
warm welcome to me. Transitions can
be difficult for both a new pastor and
parishioners. I hope I have been as
gracious as you have been to me.*

Tidbits....



Water Damage? With all the rains we received, no significant water damage thankfully. We had some ceiling tile damage, and will address some drainage

issues around the daily Mass Chapel, but overall our building proved to be very sound and well constructed as shown through the unusual weather!

Mrs. Maria Marshall...for many years Maria has served the pastor and priests as an administrative assistant. In addition to this role, Maria will now also be the "Coordinator of Stewardship." The knowledge of the parish and of parishioners will serve her and us well in this new responsibility.

Quarterly Newsletter...watch for the new and revised quarterly parish newsletter now in production!

Leadership Survey. I have learned when you first arrive in a parish to get the lay of the land. In the past three months, I have given a survey to different groups and leaders in the parish asking their opinion about the strengths and weakness. Here are some of the results:

Strengths:

- Participation; sense of the sacred;
- Good Stewards of resources;
- Excellent school and PSR;

Challenges:

- Being such a large parish might lose sense of community;
- Our need to serve the Poor;
- Living in a secular society;
- Welcoming new parishioners.

Thanks to all who helped. This gives me and the Pastoral Council some direction.