



# Parish Pastoral Council Newsletter



## 2016 Steubenville Conference

From July 15-17 Adam Stephenson will be leading 14 teens (8-12<sup>th</sup> graders) from St. Charles Borromeo to Rochester, Minnesota for the annual Steubenville Conference. Adam informed us that the focus of the conference is to encounter Jesus on a personal level. Why you may ask? In many cases Catholic teens are brought up going to Mass every week, going through the 8-9 years of Religious Formation and finally being Confirmed at the conclusion of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Although the Mass and the Sacraments are a big part of their lives, only a few will self identify as Catholic by the time they graduate college. It appears that many of these teens have been “Sacramentalized”, but not Evangelized. While the Sacraments are used by God to dispense His Grace, many of these teens don’t fully understand why they are so important, aren’t open to receiving this Grace, and soon fall away from the Faith. This conference and others like it attempt to break into the lives of these teens and introduce them to the person of Jesus in a most meaningful way. Please join us in thanking Adam for undertaking this most important event in the formation of our youth in our parish. We would also ask you to keep this group in your prayers as they journey to Rochester and back.

## Facebook

The St. Charles Borromeo Facebook Page is up and running. “Like” St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church - Gretna/Omaha, Neb. Once you click “Like”, be sure to click it again and choose “Get Notifications” to ensure you are seeing our updates in your news feed. This is a great way to stay informed on upcoming events and news.

## Movie Night

Please check facebook, bulletin, and newsletter for the next date for this event.

## Parish Council Members

We would like to take this opportunity to thank two of our outgoing members: Wendy Sheffield and Matt Schieber. They were an important part of our council, working on many projects and providing important leadership. Thank you for giving of your time and talent, you will truly be missed. Please look to the bulletin and newsletter for the announcement of the the new parish council members. Also, if you would be interested in being considered for the PPC in the future, please contact the parish office at 402-916-9730.

## News and Upcoming Events

The PPC will be having their next meeting on Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the rectory.

## PPC Members

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## Voice of the Parish

Do you have ideas for the Pastoral work of the Parish?

As a member of St. Charles Borromeo, you are invited to provide input and suggestions to the PPC. Contact one of the members of the PPC with your concerns or questions. These comments are shared and discussed at each PPC meeting. Every PPC meeting is open to parish members. Please join us on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the rectory.

July 2016

## Saying “Good-bye”, and “Hello”

The PPC would like to take this opportunity to say “farewell” to our pastor Fr. Norman Hunke. I would like to say with utmost confidence along with my fellow council members that it has been a great experience serving on the council with Fr. Hunke. It would take far too much time under this format to convey the amount of leadership Fr. Hunke displayed at all our meetings and retreats. Suffice it to say we learned more from him on what it takes to be a council member than he would ever learn from us. Thank you Father for your leadership and mentoring.

With that we say “hello” to Fr. Jeffery Loseke. I had the opportunity to contact Fr. Loseke by email to get a little background. We thought it would be helpful to be able to familiarize yourselves with our new pastor. The following is some brief insight in his own words.

Fr. Jeffery Loseke:

I grew up in Columbus, NE. Saint Isidore is my home parish. I turned 42 on June 10<sup>th</sup>. My parents are Oliver & Linda Loseke and I have one younger brother, Jeremy. Mom & Dad still live in Columbus. Dad is mostly retired but continues to work as a part-time custodian for Scotus Central Catholic High School during the school year. Mom works fulltime at Jackson's Services, a commercial laundry service. Jeremy is the store manager of the Shopko on 144th & W. Center in Omaha.

I graduated from Scotus Central Catholic in Columbus in 1992 and earned my B.A. in Speech Communications from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota where I attended college seminary. I completed my graduate-level seminary studies at the North American College in Rome and was ordained a Priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha in 2000. While in Rome I earned two Pontifical degrees: my S.T.B. (equivalent to a Master's Degree in the U.S.) in Sacred Theology and my S.T.L., which is a License in Sacred Theology with a specialization in Sacramental Theology. Currently, I am finishing a doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in Interdisciplinary Leadership at Creighton University. Hopefully, I will finish soon!

As a seminarian, I served two summers at Sacred Heart Parish in Norfolk. As a Priest, my first fulltime assignment was as the Associate Pastor at St. Margaret Mary in Omaha (2001-04). I was then assigned as the fulltime chaplain and theology teacher at Scotus Central Catholic in Columbus with residence and weekend supply help at St. Isidore (2004-08). In 2008 I was assigned as president of Cedar Catholic High School in Hartington, Nebraska and the pastor of Holy Trinity in Hartington and St. Michael in Coleridge. I ceased being pastor of St. Michael in 2013 when the parish was realigned with the parishes in Laurel and Dixon. Additionally, I have served as an adjunct professor for Central Community College in Columbus since 2004 and have taught college-level Intro to Ethics in our Catholic high schools.

My biggest "hobby" if you can call it that, is my dog. He is a 7-year old Wheaton-colored (i.e. blonde) Scottish Terrier named Staples, after my favorite author, C.S. Lewis (Clive Staples Lewis). He is a great "office dog" and will likely be seen around the offices of St. Charles Borromeo this fall! Other hobbies include: cooking, writing, theatre, traveling, etc.

I love Star Wars and so I am especially pleased to see films continuing to be made in the Star Wars universe.

I don't know that I have a "favorite food." I generally like many, many different types of food and consider my palate to be pretty expansive.

I would be remiss if I did not mention my parents as the people who have had the greatest influence on my life. In addition to them, I would add the following who colored my childhood and youth: C.S. Lewis (through his books), Mr. Rogers (through his TV show), Pope John Paul II (through his papacy in forming my idea of priesthood and the Church), and Mother Teresa (through her example of selfless sacrifice). Finally, my best friend, Bishop Steven Lopes has had -- and continues to have -- great influence in my life. He and I went to seminary together in Rome. He currently serves as the Bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, which is a non-territorial diocese (like the Military Archdiocese) for formerly Anglican parishes that converted en masse with their people and pastors to Catholicism. They retain their own liturgical expression but are fully Catholic. Saint Barnabas Parish (near the Cathedral in Omaha) is a parish of the Ordinariate and under Bishop Lopes' jurisdiction.

What do I most look forward to in coming to St. Charles Borromeo...? Well, I have heard several times how the parish has a good sense of community, is very welcoming, and has a lot of energy. This is very encouraging to me and I look forward to being a part of such a community. Further, I think the unique challenge of building and growing a young parish will be exciting.

In leaving my present assignment, I think I will miss not teaching in the high school classroom any longer. I have taught senior high theology for 12 years and have thoroughly enjoyed it. Additionally, as one would expect, I will miss the people and the community that I have come to know here in Hartington. Hartington is a close-knit community, and the small town atmosphere is something that will be missed.

Finally, for me, the best part of being a Priest is just that: being a Priest. For me it is not necessarily about the things that a Priest does, it is more about an identity and about who I am in relationship with God, His Church, and His People. To be an agent of God's love and mercy in the world and to stand as a sign of His presence for others is probably what I like best about being a Priest.