

# Bruins Broadcaster

Up-to-date news on Blessed Sacrament School programs and progress Winter 2001

## Coming Full Circle

My entire life has been tied to Blessed Sacrament Church, Blessed Sacrament School and Blessed Sacrament Parish. My parents moved to Blessed Sacrament Parish when I was 4 years old. At that time it was the farthest parish on the southwest side of Springfield.



I attended Blessed Sacrament School throughout grade school and learned to be an altar boy at an early age. Monsignor Tarrent was our pastor, and a number of us were his servers. Father Cassidy and Father Stanley were assistants at that time.

Upon graduation from grade school, my path took me to Cathedral Boys High School on the northeast side of Springfield. My altar boy duties continued throughout high school. During this time, Christ the King Parish became a spinoff from Blessed Sacrament, and as a result our parish became surrounded on all four sides by other parishes.

At the University of Illinois from 1954 to 1958, I was enrolled in the Commerce School as well as in the Naval ROTC program. Upon graduation, my three years of active duty in the Navy took me to the Pacific, where our ship had home ports in Seattle, Hawaii and Guam.

My active duty ended in 1961, (but my reserve duty continued for another 27 years). Then my journey brought me back to Springfield and the insurance business.

Mary and I quickly moved to South Walnut Street to be back in Blessed Sacrament Parish. Our four children graduated from Blessed Sacrament School and have gone on to lead wonderful lives and to provide us with 14 grandchildren.

It was my good fortune to be elected and to serve for 18 years as a Trustee of the University of Illinois in the 1970s and 1980s. It was a way for me to try to repay the school that had provided me a wife, an education and our four children's college degrees. My parents, my wife's father and his parents all attended the University of Illinois.

by Bill Forsyth  
Class of 1950

(Blessed Sacrament is fortunate to have Mr. Forsyth serving as President of the Blessed Sacrament School's Advisory Board and as chair person for the Education sub committee for the Long Range Planning Committee.)

## Beyond the Books

Blessed Sacrament School continues to educate students body, mind and spirit and how lucky we are to have the opportunity to touch the lives of these children. The lessons learned at BSS go far beyond the books. With the recent event of September 11, and then the plane crash in Queens, the eyes of our children have been open to mass tragedy. The children's response of support for the families in New York and the children in Afghanistan is a lesson in love and Christianity we all are able to learn from. This lesson demonstrates the importance of God in our lives and why we give thanks for being in a Catholic school where prayer is allowed. May the greater lesson learned be one that we remember each day, "our lives must be treated with care for what is here now, may be gone in a moment."

-Mrs. Dorie Walker  
Principal

## Pastor's Column

In the days of late November and December we move into the time of the Church's year known as "ADVENT." Originating from the Latin word *advenio*, it refers to the time of expectation for the coming of Christ: Both His second coming at the end of time, and His first coming at His birth. In our school, the time of Advent is marked the daily prayer at the Jesse tree, and the prayer each Monday of Advent lighting the new candles of the Advent wreath. This time of the year is also marked by concern and outreach in school and parish, for the poor and needy. The Angel tree, sponsored by Catholic Charities has received a very generous response from the parish, and our students have been busy with a number of projects: cookie walk and filling of Christmas stockings with candy for children who might not have something for Christmas. Thanks especially to the Builder's Club and all who participate in these worthy projects. Advent is also a time to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. We recently had our second grade students in all of our religious

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education programs celebrate their First penance. The priests of the area are glad to help with penance services for all of our students and parishioners.

The new steps and railings are complete in front of our Church, greatly improving its appearance and safety. The work on the new outdoor lighting is progressing very well, hopefully to be completed by Christmas.

It is my hope and prayer that the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord will be for all of our families this year a time of hope and a time to appreciate once more our Gift of Faith: as it draws us all together as family and friends. Perhaps this year we are more appreciative of this than ever before. Let us continue to pray for our world leaders, and for our men and women in the armed forces. Many, many years ago, Pope St. Leo the Great said in one of his great sermons on Christmas Day: *“Dearly Beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.”*

-Father Kevin Vann

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## A Garden Full of Fun

The Blessed Sacrament Garden Party is thriving after 77 years. In fact, two years ago the Garden Party was named “Best Outdoor Festival” by Illinois Times magazine. Traditionally, the event has been held in early June. This event is now a fixture at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

### *The History*

After the announcement that Blessed Sacrament would be a new parish, a group of men calling themselves “Friends of Father Tarrent” purchased a home for use as a rectory at 1629 Holmes, where Father Tarrent lived the rest of his life. John Kohlbecker organized the first Garden Party on the lawn of his home, (south of Illini Country Club, now 1600 Hackberry Lane at Outer Park Drive), to help finance the new rectory.

### *The Food and Drinks*

A big part of the party is the food and drinks that are available. The hot dogs on a grill are always a hit, the steaks are “A-plus,” and the people wait in long lines for the delicious onion rings. Soda is served by Jasper Madonia and a host of others. Snow cones are sold by local Boy Scouts. There’s also popcorn, which you can smell from a hundred yards away!

### *The Rides*

Each year there are rides and sometimes they’re different from the previous year. The Octopus, Rock-n-Roll and Scrambler are popular with many of the children. The preschoolers and children in the lower grades also enjoy the slide, jungle bounce and kid-power rides.

What would a garden party be without a train? There’s usually one of those, too. In recent years, some inflatable rides have been a part of the party. Jimmy-Jam Jumpshot and the Bungee run had people waiting to take their turn.

### *The Games*

Some of the games have been around for as long as some parishioners can remember. Huckley-Buckley’s one of them. The dime toss is another “oldie but goodie.” Tic-Tac-Toe and the Go-Fish games always bring a smile to the participants’ faces as well.

The dunk tank always makes a big splash (pun intended). Students, priests, the principal and even teachers have been “targets in the tank.” They are all great sports and if the weather’s warm, they just can’t wait to take their turn in the tank.

### *The Albert Cusick Award*

This is a yearly raffle named after a parish member who was in charge of Garden Party games for several years. His extraordinary efforts included driving out-of-state each year to pick out and purchase the prizes.

### *The Volunteers*

A big reason for the success of the Garden Party is the volunteers. There are no paid workers. The volunteers do it all. They set up, cook, clean, purchase prizes for the games, coordinate the rides, staff the games/ticket booths, etc. If you can name it, they can do it and do it well.

### *The Guests*

The Garden Party is open to everyone and that’s usually who comes. Everyone. Parishioners, students from Blessed Sacrament, students from other schools, alumni, neighbors, etc.

That’s what makes it “a tradition of fun for everyone!”

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## Going Once, Going Twice...Sold!

In 1969, Marion (McDermott) Plain and Bob Donath, along with Monsignor Haggerty, needed to come up with an idea to raise money to pave what is now the playground. This is how the first Blessed Sacrament Auction and Presale was born.

Msgr. Haggerty had only three objectives he wanted to accomplish: get as many parishioners involved as possible, make it an annual event, and raise the money that was needed.

Originally, the presale was held all day Saturday and the auction was held the following afternoon in the school gym. Over the years, the idea has remained the same, but some things have changed. The presale and auction are now held on Saturday only, with the presale running from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The gym then is cleared out and set up for the auction. At 6 p.m. the doors open, refreshments for the adults in attendance are served, and the auction begins.

This all sounds pretty easy to put together, but none of this could be accomplished without the huge slate of volunteers that spend hours of preparation in the months, weeks and days ahead of the auction and presale.

There are several committees that come together to put things in motion. During the summer, the raffle chairs hold a garden party to raise money for the raffle. At the same time, the auction chairs are making phone calls to parishioners, asking for their assistance in soliciting items for donation.

The “List of 45,” as it is called, is exactly that. Forty-five couples/people get a list of businesses to solicit, along with information on advertisement opportunities to sell. During this time, the school year begins and parents, as well as students, begin to think about this year’s auction. The various committees meet more frequently to make sure things are running as planned.

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In the final weeks before the event, the presale chairs send out notices to school families saying they welcome any items for the presale. Scheduled dropoff times are mentioned, as well as the plea for volunteers to help set up the presale.

In addition to the main auction, a silent auction is held during the day and into the evening of the auction. Again, it's the great volunteers in this parish that make it all work.

Food is served all day during the presale, with a Krispy Kreme donut sale new this year. The food wagon chairs serve up some great food all day, and into the evening.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Auction and Presale that was held Sept. 29, 2001, was the largest and most profitable auction to date. More than \$55,000 was raised from the entire event, with the proceeds going to Blessed Sacrament School.

If you're wondering how you can get involved with this worthwhile project, and have some great fun at the same time, fill out a volunteer form next year when they're sent home.

Marion, Bob and Msgr. Haggerty had a great idea back then. But they had no idea how big the auction would get. From \$4,800 in 1969 to \$55,000 in 2001 ... yes, it was a great idea!

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## Scrip, For Family, Friends and Fun

It has a funny name and a short history, but scrip is our hottest new fund-raiser. The concept is simple. The school purchases gift certificates, or scrip, from popular retailers at a discount. Parents and parish members buy the gift certificates from the school at face value.

They then use the scrip at the store instead of credit or cash. They haven't spent an extra dime but have helped us earn an average of 6 percent on their purchases.

Blessed Sacrament School started this program several years ago with certificates available for only Schnucks and Shop'n Save. The first year we sold \$8,000 worth and earned a profit of \$400.

The program has grown to the extent that you can now make purchases in the school office for grocery scrip to Schnucks, Shop 'n Save, Jewel and Meijer, gas cards for Shell or Mobil, and about 11 retail stores and 12 area restaurants. Other retailers are available on a per order basis.

We typically sell about \$4,000 in scrip every week to about 20-25 families. Last year we sold more than \$160,000.00 in scrip and earned a profit of almost \$9,000.

Once a family purchases scrip for the first time, they most often become a regular supporter. The ease of using the scrip make many feel guilty if they go to the store when they haven't bought scrip beforehand.

Some families have found it to be an excellent method for budgeting. It is suggested that you keep an order form with your monthly bills. Anticipate your purchases for the week or month and buy scrip accordingly.

A typical week for many families:

- Grocery store: \$100 (profit of \$5)
- Tank of gas: \$25 (profit of \$.75)
- Kmart for a few necessities: \$25 (profit of \$.50)
- Menard's — for your home projects: \$50 (profit of \$2)
- Fast food for the kids: \$10 (profit of \$.80)
- Dinner out with the spouse: \$40 (profit of \$5.20)

Blessed Sacrament would earn \$14.25 for these purchases that you are making anyway. If you planned ahead and purchased scrip each week of the year you would be giving the school \$741 per year! This doesn't include all those extra purchases that you make for gifts & clothing.

Multiply this by the number of families in the school and parish, and you can see how this fund raising has proved so successful for many organizations.



Think of the school when you are making those extra purchases, too.

Over the summer, the Perrero family built a deck for the back of their house, paying for it with Menard's scrip that they had purchased from the school. A little extra planning and effort on their part helped the school earn funds from their project.

These additional funds have allowed the school to expand the use of computers in the classrooms. We have recently networked all of the classrooms and each classroom now has online capabilities.

If our funds increase with more participation, the school will have more options to improve on educational resources.

Who doesn't eat and drive? Our challenge to each family is to purchase scrip for their weekly grocery and gas. This will bring in lots of bread and butter to our school!

Order forms are available online at [www.bssbruins.org](http://www.bssbruins.org) and are sent home with students on a regular basis.

There are a number of ways to purchase scrip:

- Come into the school office during normal office hours.
- Complete an order form and mail it or send it in with your child with your payment. Scrip can be sent home with your child, mailed, or we will have it ready and you can pick it up at your convenience.
- Call in your order and we'll have it ready for you to pick up.
- Scrip is available after 10:30 Mass in the vestibule of the church each week.

Channel 20 reports on the good deeds at BSS

Students stuffed stockings for the Holy Family Food pantry

A walk-a-thon was held to raise money for the children in Afghanistan

Fourth grade celebrates the Saints

## BSS HAPPENINGS

The local fire department visited BSS during Fire Safety Week

8A State Finals

Santa visited BSS during the Cookiewalk

Cross Country get a send off to the State meet.

Father Vann leads the school in an Advent ceremony

The Builder's Club led the school in a flag ceremony and prayer service

The library gets a new look

Father Bill winds up to dunk Mrs. Walker

Garden Party 2001

Garden Party 2001

Science in action

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## WISH LIST

- Paper folding machine
- Electronic coin counter
- Classroom sponsors
- Library books, resources

## Reunions

- The Class of 1942 is having a reunion Saturday, July 20, 2002.
- The Class of 1952 is scheduling a reunion for the summer of 2002.

Visit our web site:  
[www.bssbruins.org](http://www.bssbruins.org)

### Developing A Brighter Future

Blessed Sacrament School has recently undertaken some new programs that will help to ensure that the parish is able to continue to provide a quality Catholic education for its children. These programs are the Blessed Sacrament School Annual Appeal, Tuition Assistance Fund, the Blessed Sacrament School Endowment, and finally M.A.G.I.C. Match. Although each of these efforts has a different means of helping us accomplish the mission set forth when the parish was established in 1925, each is important to the continuing success of that mission.

You may recall that the commitment to providing a quality Catholic education was so high when our parish was founded that the school building was actually erected three years before the Church itself. That commitment is as strong today as it ever was. However, it has become much more costly to provide the high level of academics that we want and that parents demand of a school today. If not for the goodness of our parishioners and the stewardship of the faculty and staff it would be an impossible task.

So that we can continue to provide for our children in the same manner, the Parish School Advisory Board has recommended, and Fr. Vann has begun, four new initiatives that address the financial needs of the staying on course.

The Annual Appeal will accept tax-deductible donations to the school that will provide for a wide range of current financial needs, including books, salaries, programs, technology, facilities and just about anything else required to run our school. The Tuition Assistance Fund is an opportunity for a donor to assist a child in our parish to receive a quality Catholic education that might not otherwise be available to them because the family would have difficulty paying the tuition. M.A.G.I.C. Match is a program that allows a business, individual, or professional to sponsor a class/grade by providing funds for special programs, materials, or equipment that would enhance and expand the academic experience for those children.

The Blessed Sacrament School Education Endowment was established in 2000 in accordance with diocese's guidelines to create a financial foundation to provide resources to meet future demands of our mission. The Endowment will accept donations that will be invested so that the returns can be used to provide whatever is necessary to meet the educational requirements of the children at that time.

If you are interested in participating in any of these programs, please call the school office at (217) 522-7534 for assistance.

-by Joe Stannard  
Class of 1969

#### HELP US UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST

- If you know of alumni who did not receive this newsletter, or if you are receiving more than one copy, please indicate below and mail this form to us.
- Parents: If your alumni son(s)/daughter(s) has a permanent address other than the one given below, please complete the form below giving the updated address and return the form to us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL  
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Return Service Request