

FMS Students say good bye to Principal Karen Ogles



Fr. Larry Van Damme blessing the pets



Monks Visit from the Copper Country



Children Play games at Parish Picnic

# St. Michael Parish Annual Report 2009-2010

Saint Michael Parish



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# St. Michael Annual Report 2009-2010

*“We boast of our hope for the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2)*



Dear Parishioners,

May this Annual Report find you doing well as autumn comes our way. On behalf of the many parishioners who worked hard to construct this report, I am happy to present to you this review of St. Michael’s 2009-10 story. Special thanks to our bulletin company - Diocesan Publications – for printing this report at no cost to us.

Although Father Ben Hasse and I are now in our second year of serving you, we continue to be grateful for your ongoing warm welcome and encouragement. Thank you! It is a privilege and a delight to share in life and ministry with you. Your prayerful support is crucial. Thank you, too, for your patience as we strive to learn parishioner names. St. Michael’s is a large parish. When we take into consideration everyone involved at Father Marquette Catholic School and NMU Catholic Campus Ministry, we realize that learning names here will be an ongoing task for us!

St. Michael’s Annual Report reminds us of the rich array of ministry, service and activity here. The remarkable cooperation among them is evidence of the Holy Spirit alive and well here. Yet the stories within describe only some of how the Gospel and God’s good work is being proclaimed and furthered. The ways in which parishioners give witness to their Catholic Christian faith outside the walls of St. Michael’s facilities are countless.

As we reflect on our Annual Report theme of “We boast of our hope for the glory of God,” the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the theological virtue of hope as a gift that “responds to the aspiration of happiness which God has placed in the heart of every person; it takes up the hopes that inspire our activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps us from



discouragement; it sustains us during times of abandonment; it opens our hearts in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, we are preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity” (CCC 1819). As people “buoyed up by hope,” we do well to constantly say yes to God’s invitation to live generously as loving, serving, faith-filled people of hope.



On the weekend of September 25 & 26th we will have a special opportunity to say yes to many of the faith enrichment and charitable opportunities at St. Michael’s. At our big “Harvesting Our Gifts” Ministry Fair after each of our Masses, we will be able to meet and talk with leaders and members of parish ministries. Also, the Service Opportunity and Reference Sheets offered to us each September have been enclosed with this report. I hope and pray that YOU and your loved ones will prayerfully consider these opportunities. Our parish is abundantly blessed with gifts, talent, and very dedicated parishioners. When we step forth in faith as generous stewards of these gifts for the sake of Christ, the hope that God gives grows... and God’s kingdom comes. God bless!

Rev. Larry Van Damme  
Pastor of St. Michael Parish and  
Director of Catholic Campus Ministry at NMU



## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

### St. Vincent de Paul

Because of the generosity of our parishioners, the society's St. Michael Conference was able to help 70 families this past year, up from 54 families the previous year. Assistance given to our friends in need was for rent, heating and utility bills. The conference also continued to partner with Sister Ludmilla, helping with the Backpack and Resurrection Baskets programs. The St. Michael Conference has 12 active members and 14 associate members, who put in 3,182 hours and logged 1,230 miles in Vincentian services this past year.



Boy Scouts provide service



"Little Dresses for Libby"



"Little Dresses for Libby"



School Prayer Partners

### Youth Ministry

The youth of our parish, under the leadership of Kathy Farrell, served our parish family, the local community and the global community through many activities. Middle School youth, among other good works, made and decorated placemats for the prison ministry retreat, helped at the Parish Halloween Party and Thanksgiving Dinner, and accepted donations to feed the hungry at the "Souper Bowl" collection after Masses. They also packed and wrapped 48 Christmas shoe boxes for the Great Lakes Recovery Center, including a hand-made Christmas card with each gift.

Activities of high school youth included volunteering monthly at the St. Vincent de Paul store doing various sorting tasks, serving beverages at the Parish Thanksgiving Dinner, and accepting donations at the "Souper Bowl" collection. Students also provided support for Josselin, a child sponsored through the Christian Foundation for Children and Adults. Many

young and older students were also involved in other ways, such as helping the Men's Club, Father Marquette School activities, Boy Scouts and Mass ministries, like music, altar server and cross bearer.

### Christian Service and Evangelization Committee

The goals of this combined committee remain to invite, welcome and reach out to the local and world community. The "Walk to Bethlehem" was repeated during Advent after the successful 2008 event. Simple Soup Suppers were offered during Lent, with donations going to Operation Rice Bowl. Also new this year has been the "Little Dresses for Libby" project. Many women were involved in sewing little pillow-case dresses and britches for children in Nicaragua where Fr. Ben's sister is working in the Peace Corps. The parish also gave Libby \$500 to use for school supplies, scholarships and stoves for the children and families.

Other accomplishments of the committee include producing the parish newsletter, providing monthly birthday parties for children at the Lake Superior Village Youth and Family Center, and organizing lunches for Habitat for Humanity volunteers. The committee also promoted awareness of Domestic Violence, with donations to Harbor House, and of National Service Day in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It is also the responsibility of this committee to review, research and make recommendations to the Pastoral Council on the wise use of the Christian Service Fund, the five percent tithe of parish income. Several agencies and many individuals are given aid each year through this fund. The committee welcomes letters of request, sent to the parish office.

"school life." CCM added other programs and activities to our schedule this year. A daily Mass was held on Tuesday nights at 9:30 p.m. in the Chapel, and Campus Minister Catherine Hardenbergh and Chaplain Father Ben Hasse were available weekly on NMU's campus to meet with students and faculty or staff. Father Larry and Father Ben accompanied six NMU students on a Spring Break missionary trip to Wisconsin, and a weekly "Sunday Night Cram Session" was held to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings. Students participated in the Fall and Spring retreats with fellow students from the Catholic Campus Ministries at MTU and LSSU.

### Marquette Frassati Society

The world-wide Frassati Society saw a Marquette Chapter begin in 2009. Shared by the four Catholic parishes of the Marquette area, this movement reaches out to young adults and families to offer both spiritual enrichment, charitable opportunities, and many fellowship opportunities. It is dedicated to the memory of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925), who is remembered for his charitable acts to the poor in Turin, Italy and his enthusiasm for the great outdoors. The Marquette events this past year were rich and well-attended. Visit [www.marquettefrassati.us](http://www.marquettefrassati.us) for more information.

#### Father Marquette School Budget Summary

REVENUES	09-10 Budget
Tuition	\$542,305.00
Tuition Assistance	\$7,000.00
Supporting Parishes	\$607,579.00
Third Source Funding	\$145,500.00
Diocesan Revenue	\$29,900.00
Endowment & Other	
Administrative Income	\$10,000.00
Auxiliary Services	\$21,800.00
Hot Lunch	\$38,00.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,402,084.00</b>
EXPENSES	
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,152,960.00
Instruction	\$43,000.00
Pupil Transportation	\$3,000.00
Activities & Programs	\$6,700.00
Administration	\$34,500.00
Occupancy	\$105,700.00
Capital Outlay	\$15,000.00
Hot Lunch	\$39,952.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,400,812.00</b>
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	\$1,272.00



## SCHOOL COMMUNITY

### Father Marquette Catholic School

Father Marquette Catholic School continues to grow. Enrollment is currently at a five-year high. At the start of the 2009-2010 school year, there were so many incoming kindergarten students registered that Father Marquette Elementary School (FMES) added a third kindergarten class. Since the music room was needed as a classroom, the music teacher traveled from classroom to classroom for music sessions. The old custodian room became the new library, as staff and volunteers renovated the room.

After 15 years, Father Marquette Middle School (FMMS) principal, Karen Ogles, retired in December. Her 28-year career with the Marquette Catholic schools began with a job as part-time physical education instructor at Bishop Baraga Grade School. She then moved to St. Michael School, which later merged with Bishop Baraga to become the Father Marquette School system. Upon Karen's departure, Judy Valente graciously agreed to come out of retirement and step in as interim building administrator at the middle school for the rest of the '09-'10 school year. Judy had previously served as school administrator.

Fifty-two families from our parish, out of a total of 202 school families, took advantage of the opportunity to send their children to Father Marquette School last year. Seventy-nine of the 321 pupils were from St. Michael's.



Happy Fr. Marquette Students



Karen Ogles



Men's Club Pancake Breakfast



CCM and the Monks



CCM students at Parish Picnic



Honoring the Saints at School



New altar server

Each night, Room at the Inn served from a minimum of about five people to a maximum of fifteen. Some folks stayed a night or two while others stayed most of the year. Approximately 100 different individuals were served this year and were helped by the approximately 700 trained volunteers.

This past year, Room at the Inn was helped with monetary contributions from churches, schools and various community groups as well as individuals from all over the Upper Peninsula and even beyond. Some groups provided meals, traveling from as far away as Republic to serve the homeless. Washington Middle School in Calumet came with a check for \$500.

Again this year, under Helen McCormick's leadership, Joy Niemi and Rosemary Gegare acted as our church coordinators, working to sign up volunteers for the weeks we hosted, in October, January and May. Each week, at least 50 people staff the shelter. Campus Ministry took responsibility for cleanup after the shelter left this year, and many Northern Michigan University students were involved as volunteers as well. The Christian Service Committee donated generously to the Room at the Inn again this year, and many of our parishioners not only volunteered their time, but also money, clothing, bedding or food to our homeless guests. Father Larry and Father Ben took the training, and both volunteered each time the shelter came to St. Michael.

### Ladies Altar Society

A major contribution this year of the Altar Society was the purchase of five upholstered club chairs for the rectory offices. The society also paid for dry clean-

ing of all vestments, provided the wine and Communion bread and kept the Zryd Center supplied. The ladies again sponsored the Annual Bazaar and Women's Marian Service and potluck (formerly the mother-daughter potluck). For the Marian Service this year, women were encouraged to wear vintage hats, handbags and to display hankies. As in the past, the society continued to work with the Men's Club and other groups to meet many parish needs.

### Men's Club

The Men's Club continues its support of many parish activities, through service and financial aid. Again this past year, major fund-raising events—which also satisfied our taste buds—were pancake breakfasts for Halloween and March Madness. The club also runs the raffle at the Parish Picnic. All funds help many, including the Boy Scouts and Sister Ludmilla's Operation Backpack, and this year the men also supported a seminary fund and a scholarship. The seminary fund helps Father Greg Heikkala visit current seminarians. The winner of the Father Marquette Catholic School scholarship was McCall Kochevar. Thirteen St. Michael's men participated in the Diocesan Men's Conference in Marquette in April.

### Catholic Campus Ministry

Welcoming many new student faces this year, in addition to our new pastor and associate pastor, Catholic Campus Ministry held a "Retreat for Busy Persons" in the fall. Students signed up to meet with a Spiritual Director for four consecutive weeks.

The retreat proved to be a wonderful way of focusing and guiding the students as they transitioned from "home life" to

### Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry continues at St. Michael's, with members knitting prayer shawls for those around us going through difficult times. These shawls represent God's enfolding love and are invested with the prayers of the whole parish community. Besides giving shawls to those in our own parish this year, our ministry also provided shawls for Beacon House for patients undergoing radiation therapy and for the Surgical Unit at Marquette General Hospital to aid in healing there. We continue to be blessed with the support and generosity of the parish and our pastor in our outreach efforts. We are thankful to be able to offer our comfort and prayers when it is needed.



## FAITH COMMUNITY

### Pastoral Council

The past year has been one of transition for the council. It welcomed our new pastor and an associate pastor, and the majority of the members were new. The first event to be hosted was September's annual Leadership Meeting. Among the many suggestions offered was a Ministry Fair, which now is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 25-26. Father Larry has encouraged each Pastoral Council member to be a good listener in order to respond to the concerns and ideas of parishioners, our Catholic school system, and NMU Catholic Campus Ministry. Contact information for each Pastoral Council member is now included with their photos in the church vestibule.

The February Dinner Dance had a Mardi Gras theme and was well attended. Members met with our Minister of Faith Formation and our

Youth Minister-Sacrament Coordinator to discuss how the Pastoral Council and our parishioners might help minister to the youth of our parish. The council also is doing all that it can to support our Development Council and Stewardship Committee as our parish continues to face financial challenges. A new "Ministry Minute" policy was approved, and events for welcoming and orienting new parishioners are being planned.

### Art and Environment

As in the past, the committee's goal has been to maintain a liturgical atmosphere that is inviting and hospitable, beautiful and dignified. This past year, activities included seeking items for the veterans display from parishioners, providing a fitting atmosphere for the Thanksgiving celebration, and offering candles to more than 80 persons during the Lenten Reconciliation service. The committee worked with other groups in a number of ways: to provide the parish with a new ambry for sacred oils and to buy an aspergillum for holy water, to set up the Rice Bowl display in the gathering space, and to enhance the First Communion Mass environment.

The committee is responsible for the care of plants and flowers and has made plans for the planting of eight rosebushes surrounding the St. Michael sign on Presque Isle Avenue. Members also helped coordinate Holy Week services, provide material and labor for Easter altar linens and obtain the Pentecost Holy Spirit banner. Finally, the group continued the tradition of seeking talented artists within our parish to labor prayerfully on the Paschal Candle, done this year by Bernie Park.



Music Ministry



Prayer



New Ambry for Sacred Oils



Holy Week



Mardi Gras Celebration



Grounds

## ***Building and Grounds Committee***

Working with Jim Sicotte, the committee oversaw a number of projects this past year. Superior Paving patched the parking lot with nine tons of asphalt, and Window Outfitters replaced the sacristy windows. In the rectory, Jim repaired leaks in the heat lines and repaired drywall throughout. In the school, he replaced the kitchen griddle and electric range and repaired other kitchen equipment, while Johnson Controls replaced 53 steam traps. A priority list of parish needs is updated twice yearly.

## ***Worship Committee***

The Worship Committee has spent the last year continuing to provide our parish community with opportunities to worship together -- from the Memorial Mass where we share in each other's grief, to the Blessing of the Pets where we can't help but be uplifted by our furry friends. This year we added a Mass in honor of health care workers, in addition to the services in honor of our elders, our youth and veterans. Committee members worked diligently behind the scenes to coordinate these services as well as our Christmas and Holy Week-Easter liturgies. In anticipation of the January 3rd Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord, 300 Home Blessing kits were prepared and given to families of our parish

## ***Stewardship***

The Stewardship Committee continued to seek out and identify parishioners who are willing to provide public testimony about their growth in living their Catholic faith. Members discussed working with members of other parish groups, and they also

continued to try to educate parishioners with respect to what stewardship really means.

## ***Development Council***

The Development Council continued to monitor the parish's financial situation and the status of the diocesan Capital Campaign initiative. Because of the change in pastors (parish level) and the downturn in the economy (diocesan level), the council decided to wait before establishing definite plans in these areas.

The Council completed the process of identifying parishioners who had left bequests to St. Michael Church from the time that the church was built up to the present. A plaque was prepared and is displayed on the west wall of the hallway that connects the Zryd Center with the gathering space. The intent is to continue adding names to the plaque as bequests are received.

In addition, the 2008-09 Parish Annual Report was completed as targeted. The Council's structure was reviewed, with no changes at this time. The Council recommended to the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council that an ad hoc committee be formed with representatives from the Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Development Council to determine if, and when, the parish should proceed with Phase II of our capital campaign. Reminders were put in the parish bulletin concerning the St. Michael Memorial Fund, and the Memorial Fund brochure was updated and is now included in the welcome packets that are given to new parishioners.

## ***Sacramental Life***

Sixteen infants were baptized at our parish last year. With the assistance of our RCIA process, three adults were baptized

at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. Another adult was welcomed into the Catholic Church that night as three others completed their Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Eighteen children made their first confession and first Holy Communion this year. Thirteen couples were married at St. Michael's and 27 funerals were celebrated.

## ***Adult Faith Formation***

St. Michael's offered several fine opportunities for adults and teenagers to enrich their faith and knowledge. In October, parishioner Ira Hutchison discussed with us the "Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Consequences of Domestic Violence." During Lent the Monks from the Copper Country offered an Evening of Reflection here entitled "Monasticism of the Heart: Lenten Wisdom for Everyday Christians." During Lent and Easter we enjoyed the eight-week "Quick Journey through the Bible" series by Ascension Press. It was followed by the two-part "Mass in Slow Motion" teaching by Father Tim Ekaitis of St. Peter Cathedral and our own Father Ben Hasse. In the summer seminarian intern Deacon Ryan Ford planned and led the six-week series entitled "Praying with the Saints: The Journey to Union with God."

## ***Kids Being Catholic***

This year, weekly faith formation for children was known as "Kids Being Catholic." We embraced it as "a little bit of vacation Bible school every week," said Director Heather Anderson. All parish youth were invited to enroll, preschool through eighth grade. Using the diocesan faith formation curriculum, weekly lessons included sections on Scripture, Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. Within each of these broad categories were tar-

geted goals and expectations for expressions of faith. Once again, the program was blessed with excellent catechists.

Both Father Ben and Father Larry were extremely visible during Kids Being Catholic sessions. It was great for the kids and their parents to witness the priests' interest in the program.

Each grade level has its own set of required prayers and Scripture stories. Parent expectations also were written for each grade level. This addition also gently reintroduced Sunday Mass requirements. During the 2009-2010 school year, the program also hosted two family events: one during Advent and a Mardi Gras celebration just before Lent. We are looking forward to more of these family events during the coming school year.

Getting families to attend Kids Being Catholic continues to be a challenging proposition. KBC plans to enthusiastically recruit families to the program for 2010 - 2011.



## ***HOSPITALITY***

### ***Room at the Inn***

This past winter Room at the Inn started the season in mid-September with 12 churches. During the winter, one more congregation joined. The congregations are St. Michael, St. Peter, St. Louis, St. Christopher, Grace United Methodist, Lake Superior Christian, Faith in Christ Fellowship, the Salvation Army, First Presbyterian, Messiah Lutheran, Redeemer Lutheran, St. Paul Episcopal, and First United Methodist. The shelter closed at the end of May. The number of congregations participating means that each church has to host only three times during the fall, winter and spring.



*Praying with the Saints Series*



*Tenebrae and Tacos*



*Fellowship*



*"Mass in Slow Motion"*



*Learning*



*Veterans Day*



*Choir Rehearsal*



*Parish Picnic*