

# SAIN BARNABAS SAN BERNABE

CATHOLIC CONGREGATION

*February 22, 2026*

*First Sunday of Lent*

WITH  
CHANGED  
HEARTS

LENT 2026

WE GO  
FORTH  
TO  
MAKE  
DISCIPLES

## Liturgical Offerings for the Week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

8:00 a.m. Word and Communion Service at St. Augustine site

### **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m. Weekday Mass at the Holy Assumption site

### **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m. Weekday Mass at St. Augustine site

### **Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m. Weekday Mass at the Holy Assumption site

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at St. Augustine site

8:00 p.m. Adoration at St. Augustine site (until 9:00 p.m.)

### **Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 p.m. Reconciliation (Confession) at St. Augustine site

4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Augustine site

6:00 p.m. Reconciliation at Holy Assumption site

6:15 p.m. Rosary at Holy Assumption site (Spanish)

7:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Assumption site (Spanish)

### **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Assumption site

10:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Assumption site

### **HOLY ASSUMPTION SITE**

**7109 WEST ORCHARD STREET**

**414-774-3010**

**HOLYASSUMPTION@STBARNABASCC.ORG**

**OFFICE HOURS: M, T, W & F - 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

**THURSDAYS - 12:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

### **ST. AUGUSTINE SITE**

**6768 WEST ROGERS STREET**

**414-541-5207**

**STAUGUSTINE@STBARNABASCC.ORG**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**THURSDAYS - 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**Website: [stbarnabascc.org](http://stbarnabascc.org)**



# Welcome to Our Parish Family!



**Pastor / Párroco**  
**Fr. Gerardo Carcar**  
*pastor@stbarnabascc.org*  
 414-541-5207



**Deacon / Diácono**  
**Steve Pemper**  
*spemper@aol.com*



**Deacon / Diácono**  
**Terry Starns**  
*terrystarns@gmail.com*

## St. Barnabas Leadership Team

### Secretaries

Rita      [stbarnabas@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:stbarnabas@stbarnabascc.org)  
 Maria    [stbarnabas@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:stbarnabas@stbarnabascc.org)

### Director of Administrative Services

Brad Berghouse    [das@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:das@stbarnabascc.org)

### Liturgist / Musicians

Kevin Bourassa    [liturgy@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:liturgy@stbarnabascc.org)  
 Pat Rogutich      [assistant@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:assistant@stbarnabascc.org)

### Maintenance

Mike Schroeder    [mike.strita@gmail.com](mailto:mike.strita@gmail.com)  
 Cesar Esparza  
 Mike Suter        [msuter@kruegerbearings.com](mailto:msuter@kruegerbearings.com)    SA

### Trustees

Larry Horning      [lehorning@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lehorning@sbcglobal.net)    Treasurer  
 Kathleen Dagenhardt    [kdagenhardt@wi.rr.com](mailto:kdagenhardt@wi.rr.com)    Secretary

### Finance

Phil Ryback        [pryback@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pryback@sbcglobal.net)    Chair

### Maintenance to Mission

Jeff Stanislawski    [stanislawskijeffrey@gmail.com](mailto:stanislawskijeffrey@gmail.com)  
 Ed Rebro            [edmonirebro@att.net](mailto:edmonirebro@att.net)

### Pastoral Council

Rachel Borden      [council@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:council@stbarnabascc.org)    Chair  
 Ginger Ryback      [gingerryback@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gingerryback@sbcglobal.net)    Co-Vice Chair  
 Jeff Stanislawski    [stanislawskijeffrey@gmail.com](mailto:stanislawskijeffrey@gmail.com)    Co-Vice Chair  
 Kitty Klein         [kittyklein2477@gmail.com](mailto:kittyklein2477@gmail.com)    Secretary

### Human Concerns

Sharon Huizenga    [service@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:service@stbarnabascc.org)

### Prayer & Worship

Kevin Bourassa      [liturgy@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:liturgy@stbarnabascc.org)

### Stewardship

Rick Bigus            [rdbigus@gmail.com](mailto:rdbigus@gmail.com)

### Building & Grounds

Mike Suter            [msuter@kruegerbearings.com](mailto:msuter@kruegerbearings.com)    SA  
 Tom Malzewski      [tmalzewski56@gmail.com](mailto:tmalzewski56@gmail.com)    HA

### Parish Life

Jeff Stanislawski    [stanislawskijeffrey@gmail.com](mailto:stanislawskijeffrey@gmail.com)

### Service

Sharon Huizenga    [service@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:service@stbarnabascc.org)

### Religious Education and OCIA

Elementary K5 - 8<sup>th</sup> grade and High School 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Ann Marie Gonzalez  
[formation@stbarnabascc.org](mailto:formation@stbarnabascc.org)

### Sacraments

#### Baptism

Parental instruction required. Contact your Parish site for more information.

#### Marriage

Please arrange for a date and instructions at least six months in advance at your Parish site. Parish registration is required.

#### Anointing of the Sick

Contact your Parish site for individual appointment.

#### Funerals

Contact your Parish site to schedule.

SA - St. Augustine

HA - Holy Assumption



K3 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 1227 South 116<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Principal: Jessica Blahunka  
 414-476-0751  
 Email: [blahunkaj@mqscateacher.org](mailto:blahunkaj@mqscateacher.org)  
 Website: [www.mqscsa.org](http://www.mqscsa.org)

A SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# Mass Intentions This Week

## Saturday, February 21

4:00 p.m. † Angeline Hazlett SA - Fr. Gerardo  
Jerry and Helen Gerow 63<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary

7:00 p.m. For the People of HA - Fr. Larry Webber  
(Spanish) St. Barnabas Parish

## Sunday, February 22

9:00 a.m. † Carolann Gleason HA - Fr. Gerardo

10:30 a.m. For the People of HA - Fr. Gerardo  
St. Barnabas Parish

## Monday, February 23

8:00 a.m. Word and Communion Service SA

## Tuesday, February 24

8:00 a.m. Weekday Mass HA

## Wednesday, February 25

## Thursday, February 26

8:00 a.m. Weekday Mass SA

## Friday, February 27

8:00 a.m. Weekday Mass HA

## Saturday, February 28

4:00 p.m. For the People of SA - Fr. Dick Robinson  
St. Barnabas Parish

7:00 p.m. For the People of HA - Fr. Gerardo  
(Spanish) St. Barnabas Parish

## Sunday, March 1

9:00 a.m. † Claud Sura HA - Fr. Gerardo

10:30 a.m. For the People of HA - Fr. Dick Robinson  
St. Barnabas Parish

HA - Holy Assumption

SA - St. Augustine

## This Week's Sanctuary Light

In Loving Memory of:

Holy Assumption Site: † For the People of St. Barnabas Parish

St. Augustine Site: † For the People of St. Barnabas Parish



## Readings for the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/ Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/ Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

## Events in Our Parish and Community



Holy Assumption Site

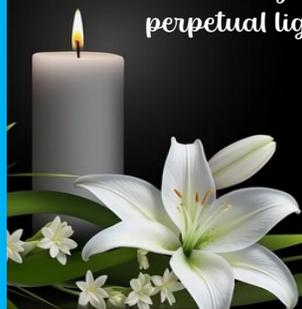


St. Augustine Site

### Highlights This Week

- Feb. 24 Hospitality after 8:00 a.m. Mass /  
Holy Assumption site  
9:00 a.m. - Sleeping Bag Ministry / St. Augustine site  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Food Pantry / Holy Assumption site  
6:30 p.m. - Lent Bible Study / Holy Assumption site
- Feb. 25 6:00 p.m. - Blooming Catholics / Holy Assumption site  
6:00 p.m. - St. Barnabas Hospitality Committee Meeting / Holy Assumption site  
7:00 p.m. - Cursillo / Holy Assumption site
- Feb. 26 4:00 p.m. - Intercessory Prayer Group /  
Holy Assumption site  
**NO CHOIR REHEARSAL**
- Feb. 27 Hospitality after 8:00 a.m. Mass /  
Holy Assumption site  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Food Pantry / Holy Assumption site
- Mar. 1 10:15 a.m. - High School Religious Education Class /  
Holy Assumption site

*Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen*



We pray for the repose of the soul of **John Watkinson**, who passed away on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please keep John's family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**MEN OF CHRIST**

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Men of Christ Conference - Building Men of Virtue

March 14, 2026 at Miller High Life Theater

Register at [menofchrist.net](http://menofchrist.net)

For more information, please contact:

John Gomez 414-861-1101

Carpooling is available from MPH parish.

### CLERGY CORNER

By Deacon Steve Pemper



#### Make this the best lent ever

This is now the time of the year when we look to empty ourselves out and to face down our temptations. Our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are powerful ways to imitate Jesus when he was drawn into the desert to become closer to the Father. When we purge ourselves and turn away from sin, God fills us up with exactly what he desires to provide for us.

*"Jesus meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto thine."*



Join us for Bible Study!



Lent, Season of Transformation

A Little Rock Scripture Study

Led by Fr. Gerardo Carcar, Fr. Dick Robinson, & Deacon Terry Starns

WHERE: Holy Assumption

TIME: 6:30-8:00 pm

TUESDAYS: \*Feb 17<sup>th</sup> \*Feb 24<sup>th</sup> \*Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>

During Lent, we strive to free ourselves from all kinds of clutter, material and spiritual, in order to focus on God and turn back to him with our whole hearts. To help us enter into this season, this 3-week study will guide us in exploring three key moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. We will gain a better understanding of the authentic transformation that God calls each of us to embrace, both as individuals and as a community, with renewed desire to live God's own outward-looking, self-emptying, laying-down-one's-life kind of love.

Cost: \$5 per person

(Covers cost of study guide)

You will receive your study guide prior to the first class

Sign-up sheets located in back of church at each site

Questions or to sign up, contact Ginger Ryback at [gingerryback@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gingerryback@sbcglobal.net) or (414) 588-2702

Effective March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the new Parish Office hours at the St. Augustine site are Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. - Noon.

You can continue to reach Maria by calling 414-541-5207 or 414-774-3010.

## Events in Our Parish



# All-You-Can-Eat



**Fridays - March 13<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**LOCATION: St. Augustine Parish Gym, 2025 South 67<sup>th</sup> Place, West Allis**

SERVING TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**MENU:** Beer Battered Fried Cod, Heart-Healthy Baked Cod, Chicken Tenders, Fried Shrimp, SALAD BAR, Homemade Clam Chowder, French Fries, Parsley-Buttered Potatoes, Rye Bread, Coffee, Milk, Dessert.

\*\* Chicken Tenders NOT Served during Lent. Macaroni & Cheese are served during Lent only.  
Beer and Soda Available for Purchase.

TAKE-OUTS ARE AVAILABLE!

**COST:** Adults - \$16.00 All-You-Can-Eat Baked or Fried  
\$20.00 Combo - 5 pieces of Shrimp and All-You-Can-Eat Baked or Fried  
Children Ages 3 to 10 - \$9.00 All-You-Can-Eat Baked or Fried

**If you have questions, please call Russ Miller at 414-248-3888.**

**You can also check our website: [stbarnabascc.org](http://stbarnabascc.org)**



### LENTEN RICE BOWLS

As Catholic Relief Services (CRS) navigated this past year of uncertainty and global funding cuts, they have continued to provide families in crisis with essential support – food, water, shelter and care. The Lenten Rice Bowl collection provides an opportunity for parishioners of all ages at St. Barnabas to help people in need around the world and make available to those families the access to healthy food and clean water that we take for granted each day.

Take your Lenten Rice Bowl home. Suggestion: Fast from Starbucks or something else you can give up for another's need and feed the Bowl! Lenten Rice Bowls are available at the back of church. When Lent gives way to Holy Week, bring your Rice Bowls back to church and give them to the ushers before or after Mass. The donations will be counted, and a check will be sent directly to CRS on our behalf. Pope Francis expressed the hope that the Rice Bowl program would continue to serve as an example of how to fulfill the Gospel's command to love and serve our neighbor in a communal way. (In a Letter to CRS in 2025)



### PLATOS DE ARROZ DE CUARESMA

Este último año mientras Catholic Relief Services (CRS) afrontaba de incertidumbre y recortes en la financiación global, ha continuado brindando a las familias en crisis el apoyo esencial: alimentos, agua, refugio y atención. La colecta de los Platos de Arroz de Cuaresma ofrece a los feligreses de todas las edades de la parroquia de San Bernabé la oportunidad de ayudar a las personas necesitadas en todo el mundo y de proporcionarles acceso a alimentos saludables y agua potable, algo que nosotros damos por sentado cada día.

Llévese a casa su Plato de Arroz de Cuaresma. Sugerencia: Ayune de Starbucks o de cualquier otra cosa a la que pueda renunciar para ayudar a los demás, ¡y llene el plato! Los Platos de Arroz de Cuaresma están disponibles en la parte trasera de la iglesia. Al culminar Cuaresma traiga sus Platos de Arroz de vuelta a la iglesia y entréguelos a los ujieres antes o después de la Misa. Estas donaciones monetarias se contabilizarán y los administradores enviarán un cheque directamente a CRS en nuestro nombre. El Papa Francisco expresó la esperanza de que el programa de los Platos de Arroz continuara sirviendo como ejemplo de cómo cumplir el mandato del Evangelio de amar y servir a nuestro prójimo de forma comunitaria. (En una carta a CRS en 2025)

Events in Our Parish

# SAVE THE DATE

## JONAH: THE DEPTHS OF GRACE

This 2-day workshop will be given by Al McCauley Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Anthony on the Lake Parish in Pewaukee

### Day 1- Fleeing Like Jonah

Like Jonah, our Lenten call is to turn away from disobedience and exhibit a greater trust in God

### Day 2 -Learning Like Jonah

Like Jonah, our Lenten journey should lead us to know that all things are possible with God, most notably our redemption

### JONAH: THE DEPTHS OF GRACE

The story of Jonah has plenty to say about what a disciple is (and is not). We can learn from this reluctant prophet the Lenten themes of repentance and prayer – and come to a greater appreciation of God’s limitless love and mercy.

Presented by Al McCauley  
For St. Barnabas Parish  
Wed., March 11 & Thur., March 12  
@ 6:30-7:45 p.m.



Saint Barnabas Parish  
Saint Augustine Site  
2025 South 67th Place (Gym)

### JONAH: Las Profundidades de la Gracia

La historia de Jonás tiene mucho que decir sobre lo que es (y no es) discípulo. Podemos aprender de este profeta reticente los temas cuaresmales del arrepentimiento y la oración, y llegar a una mayor apreciación del amor y la misericordia ilimitados de Dios.

Presentado por Al McCauley  
para la Parroquia de Santa Bernabé  
miércoles, 11 de marzo & Jueves 12 de marzo  
A las 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.



## Upcoming Fish Fry's

### St. Bernadette Parish

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
8200 West Denver Avenue

### Notre Dame School of Milwaukee

Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
St. Florian Campus, 1215 S. 45th St., West Milw.

## PARISH FESTIVAL



Friday,  
July 31<sup>st</sup>

Saturday,  
August 1<sup>st</sup>

Sunday,  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>

## PARISH FESTIVAL

Do you like games such as the Spot Game, Liquor Game, and Loteria (Mexican BINGO)? We are looking for someone who can help be the go-to person for these adult games. We have the games, we just need help to run them! Please call Samantha Valdivia at 414-651-6379 if you are interested or come to our next Festival meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Holy Assumption school building. Other help would be much appreciated for making the flyer, looking for sponsors, ordering the beer, and bake sale. Thank you!

¿Le gustan estos juegos como el Juego de SPOT, el Juego del Licor, y la Lotería? Buscamos a alguien que pueda ser la persona de referencia para estos juegos para adultos. ¡Tenemos los juegos, solo necesitamos ayuda para organizarlos! Si te interesa, llame a Samantha Valdivia al 414-651-6379 o asiste a nuestra próxima reunión del Festival el 11 de marzo a las 6:30 p.m. en el edificio de la escuela Holy Assumption. Agradecemos cualquier ayuda para preparar el volante, buscar patrocinadores, ordenar la cerveza y la venta de postres. ¡Gracias!

## IGNITE



"Be who God meant you to be,  
and you will set the world on fire."  
St. Catherine of Siena

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
Feb. 23 - 25, 2026

6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Each Night

LOCATION  
Mother of Perpetual Help  
East Site:  
2322 S 106th Street  
West Allis, WI 53227



Mitchell Narvasa

## Events in Our Parish



Your gift to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal plants seeds of hope for the many ministries of the Archdiocese. Every gift is needed and welcomed, no matter the size. To donate, visit **www.catholicappeal.org**, text **APPEAL2026** to **414-348-8380** or mail your check to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal, 3501 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235.

Con su donación a la Campaña Católica para el Discipulado, usted ayuda a sembrar esperanza en los diversos ministerios de nuestra Arquidiócesis. Cada donación es valiosa y bienvenida, sin importar el monto. Para donar, visite **www.catholicappeal.org**, envíe un mensaje de texto con la palabra **APPEAL2026** al **414-348-8380** o envíe su cheque por correo a Catholic Stewardship Appeal, 3501 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235.



For more information on the Catholic Stewardship Appeal including a message from Archbishop Grob, visit <https://www.archmil.org/catholic-stewardship-appeal>. Available in both English and Spanish.

Para más información sobre la Campaña Católica de para el Discipulado, incluido un mensaje del Arzobispo Grob, visite <https://www.archmil.org/catholic-stewardship-appeal>. Disponible en inglés y español.

## Message to the St. Barnabas Parish as we start the Lenten session

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We started the holy season of Lent marked by a humble sign: ashes. We heard the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

For us, as the community of St. Barnabas, these words resonate this year with a special depth. We have lived through a season of "letting go", seeing how certain structures and buildings - which were glorious in their time - have been left behind. We have transitioned from managing the separate histories of three parishes with seventeen buildings to becoming a single family. Ashes are what remains when the fire has purified everything; we are removing the superfluous so that the essential may shine. The message of the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, for this Lent 2026, titled *"To Listen and to Fast"*, gives us the key to understanding our own journey: we are stripping away what is extra so that the core of our faith can shine.

**1. Lent as a Time for LISTENING.** Pope Leo XIV tells us that every journey of conversion begins when we allow ourselves to be reached by the Word. At St. Barnabas, we have made a courageous decision: to move "from maintenance to mission". This is a profound act of listening. We stopped listening to the noise of "brick-and-mortar" administration to start listening to the living voice of God and the cry of our community here in West Allis.

- **Listening to those in need:** The Pope asks us to recognize the voice that cries out from suffering. We have responded through our various ministries: Earth Angels, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich ministry, the sleeping bag ministry, and the Food Pantry. By shifting our focus away from "maintaining buildings", we have unleashed the energy to serve the neediest in our neighborhood. Volunteers from our three legacy communities now serve side-by-side.
- **Listening to the Spirit:** Through our various formation and prayer initiatives, we are creating spaces to hear God. We are moving from being mere "churchgoers" to becoming true disciples.

**2. Lent as a Time of FASTING and the Disarming of Language.** The Pope makes a challenging invitation for 2026 that touches us directly as a community in transition: to fast from words that hurt and wound our neighbor. He calls us to "disarm our language" and set aside hurtful words.

Brothers and sisters, mergers are not easy. Change breeds uncertainty. The temptation is to complain or compare everything to the past - "In my old parish, we did it this way" - or to pass quick judgment on new decisions. I propose a communal fast for St. Barnabas: Let us fast from negativity, from gossip, and from words that divide. May our voices not tear down the bridges we are building between St. Rita, St. Augustine, and Holy Assumption. May our words be the cement that binds, not the hammer that strikes.

**3. TOGETHER: A New Center of Gravity.** Finally, the Pope mentions the prophet Nehemiah, recalling how the people gathered together to rebuild and to renew their covenant. We, too, are rebuilding. Our Renovation Committee is working to find our "center of gravity"—a place where all our energy focuses on evangelization.

But a physical building will be useless if we do not first build the spiritual edifice. We are no longer three separate entities managing a decline. We are a missionary people on the rise! We have integrated our choirs, our councils, and our ministries. This "synergy" is the work of the Holy Spirit.

We received the ashes that reminded us: everything material—buildings, plans, structures—will pass away. But the love with which we serve, the faith with which we pray, and the unity we forge among ourselves will remain forever. May this Lent help us to listen more to the voice of God than to the noise of our fears. May this Lent help us to be one single family on a mission.

*Fr. Guards Louca*

## Mensaje a la Parroquia San Bernabé al inicio de la Cuaresma 2026

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Hemos comenzado el tiempo santo de la Cuaresma marcados por un signo humilde: la ceniza, y hemos escuchado las palabras: "Recuerda que eres polvo y al polvo volverás".

Para nosotros en San Bernabé, estas palabras resuenan con una profundidad especial. Hemos vivido un tiempo de "soltar", viendo cómo estructuras y edificios que fueron gloriosos han quedado atrás. Hemos pasado de gestionar tres parroquias distintas con 17 edificios, a convertirnos en una sola familia. Las cenizas son lo que queda cuando el fuego purifica; estamos quitando lo superfluo para que brille lo esencial. El mensaje del Santo Padre, el Papa León XIV, para esta Cuaresma 2026, titulado "*Escuchar y ayunar*", nos da la clave para entender nuestro propio camino: eliminar lo que sobra para que lo fundamental resplandezca.

**1. La Cuaresma como tiempo de ESCUCHA** El Papa León XIV nos dice que todo camino de conversión comienza cuando nos dejamos alcanzar por la Palabra. En San Bernabé, hemos tomado una decisión valiente: pasar "del mantenimiento a la misión". Este es un acto profundo de escucha. Hemos dejado de escuchar el ruido de la administración de ladrillos para empezar a escuchar la voz viva de Dios y el clamor de nuestra comunidad aquí en West Allis.

- **Escuchamos a los necesitados:** El Papa nos pide reconocer la voz que clama desde el sufrimiento. Nosotros hemos respondido a través de nuestros ministerios: *Earth Angels*, San Vicente de Paúl, el ministerio de *Peanutbutter and Jelly sandwiches*, el de las bolsas de dormir y el Banco de Alimentos. Al quitar el enfoque del "mantenimiento de edificios", hemos liberado energía para servir a los más necesitados. Los voluntarios de nuestras tres antiguas comunidades sirven ahora codo con codo.
- **Escuchamos al Espíritu:** A través de nuestros diversos proyectos de formación y oración, estamos creando espacios para oír a Dios. Estamos pasando de ser simples "asistentes a la iglesia" a convertirnos en verdaderos discípulos.

**2. El AYUNO de las palabras y el desarme del lenguaje** El Papa nos hace una invitación desafiante para 2026 que nos toca directamente como comunidad en transición: ayunar de las palabras que hieren y lastiman al prójimo. El Papa nos pide "desarmar el lenguaje", quitar las palabras hirientes.

Hermanos y hermanas, las fusiones no son fáciles. El cambio genera incertidumbre. La tentación es quejarse o comparar todo con el pasado: "En mi antigua parroquia se hacía así", o juzgar rápidamente las nuevas decisiones. Les propongo un ayuno comunitario para San Bernabé: Ayunemos de la negatividad, del chisme y de las palabras que dividen. Que nuestras voces no destruyan los puentes que estamos construyendo entre Santa Rita, San Agustín y la Asunción. Que nuestras palabras sean el cemento que une, no el martillo que golpea.

**3. JUNTOS: Hacia un nuevo "Centro de Gravedad"** Finalmente, el Papa menciona al profeta Nehemías, recordando cómo el pueblo se reunió para reconstruir y renovar su alianza. Nosotros también estamos reconstruyendo. Nuestro Comité de Renovación está trabajando para encontrar nuestro "centro de gravedad", un lugar donde toda nuestra energía se enfoque en la evangelización.

Pero ese edificio físico no servirá de nada si no construimos primero el edificio espiritual. Ya no somos tres entidades separadas gestionando un declive. ¡Somos un pueblo misionero en ascenso! Hemos integrado nuestros coros, nuestros consejos y nuestros ministerios. Esta "sinergia" es obra del Espíritu Santo.

Hemos recibido la ceniza, que nos recuerda que todo lo material —edificios, planes, estructuras— pasará. Pero el amor con el que servimos, la fe con la que oramos y la unidad que forjamos, eso permanecerá para siempre. Que esta Cuaresma nos ayude a escuchar más la voz de Dios que el ruido de nuestros miedos. Que esta Cuaresma nos ayude a ser una sola familia en misión.

Fr. Eduardo Zóica

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