

From Maintenance to Mission

Over the past weeks, our Pastoral Council gathered for its Annual Transition Meeting to reflect on the future of St. Barnabas Parish. Together we remembered our history and looked with hope toward the future. We reflected on the journey that brought several parish communities together to become St. Barnabas and on the mission God is entrusting to us today.

We also remembered with gratitude the generations of immigrant families who built the churches that now form St. Barnabas Parish. They arrived in West Allis with little more than their faith, their families, and a dream for the future. Through sacrifice, generosity, and countless hours of volunteer service, they built churches, schools, and communities that have nourished the faith of generations. They did not wait for someone else to build the Church for them. **They understood that they were the Church.** Today, we honor their legacy not simply by preserving what they built, but by embracing the same missionary spirit that inspired them.

The first generation built our churches with bricks and sacrifice. Our generation is called to build a missionary community with the same faith and generosity.

Our city of West Allis is changing. New families, new businesses, and new opportunities are transforming our neighborhoods. We believe the Holy Spirit is also calling our parish to a renewed way of thinking.

For many years, people often looked at the parish as a place that provides religious services. While those ministries remain essential, the Gospel invites us to something even greater.

The Church is not simply a place we come to receive.

The Church is all of us.

Every baptized person has been given gifts to share. Every one of us has a role in building the Kingdom of God.

For that reason, I would like to invite every parishioner to reflect on one simple question:

Instead of asking,

"What does the parish have to offer me?"

perhaps we should begin asking,

"What am I ready to do to help St. Barnabas become a truly missionary community?"

This is the spirit behind our parish vision:

From Maintenance to Mission.

May St. Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement, inspire each of us to discover our gifts and place them at the service of Christ and one another.

Fr. Gerardo Cárcar
Pastor