Assumption Parish: ‘We are called to sacrificial giving as a way of life’

SEATTLE
BY ARMANDO MACHADO

In welcoming words from Assumption Parish in Seattle, newcomers are told that the parish offers members opportunities to grow in the faith through the liturgies that are celebrated, the Assumption-St. Bridget School, and activities that include social events, religious education, “and outreach to our local, regional, and world communities.”

The parish has more than 650 registered households. It was founded in 1923. The school, established in 1947, has 531 students (K-8), including children from St. Bridget Parish.

“The Assumption Parish office is always a buzz of activities, and volunteers are an essential part of what makes this parish work,” Carol Durbin, pastoral administrative assistant, said last week. “The parish is very alive and welcoming with many social and spiritual activities.”

Durbin also noted: “During Lent every Monday is a soup supper followed by the Stations of the Cross. Each week a different group provides soup supper for parishioners, with proceeds going to the Rice Bowl.”

She said the school principal, Michael Foy, and his staff members “provide excellent scholastic and religious preparation in conjunction with the parishes.”

Newcomers also are told that the parish community is made up of many generations, singles, couples, families, young and old. All are invited to share their time, talent and treasure as a way to give back to the Lord a share of what the Lord has given to them. “Sacrificial Giving is a way of life we are called to,” states informational material designed for new members.

The parish social activities are wide ranging to meet the needs of the entire parish community. These include the Fall Picnic & Bake Off, the Fish Fry during Lent; Easter Egg Hunt; monthly potluck functions organized by the Adult Social Club; the annual Power of One Christmas Concert; Family Movie Nights; and Moms Group meetings and outings.

Members of the Moms Group meet the first Tuesday of each month — and moms and kids meet once a month to play. In the summer, playtime is often at a park. “Our time together allows us to get to know one another, and is primarily a social time,” Moms Group informational material states.

There is also the Parish Life Commission, which was formed in order to encourage interaction between parish members, sponsoring events that foster a sense of community.

And there are youth and adult sports programs, including basketball, volleyball and soccer. Parish involvement also comes by way of these groups: Youth Ministry; FIAT (Faith In Action Team); Interfaith Commission; Volunteer Chores Services; St. Vincent de Paul Society; Bereavement Ministry; and the Music Ministry.

The junior high and the high school youth groups participate in many activities, including winter and summer retreats.

The new parish center was completed in October 2004 and dedicated by Archbishop Alex J. Brunett two months later. The center includes new meeting rooms and offices for the parish, and a new social hall and kitchen for receptions and educational gatherings. It also includes a new Blessed Sacrament Chapel and two new classrooms for the school. There are plans for a new youth center and renovation of the church.

Assumption Parish
Founded: 1923
Registered Households: more than 650
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This weekend Holy Cross will be participating in the new Progress P3 subscription program. Five dollars from each subscription they sell will go to their youth group. For more information on this program contact Marketing Associate Keri Hake at 206-382-2075 or kerih@seattlearch.org.