

## Office of the Chaplain

### *Role of the Chaplain:*

Saint Bernard Preparatory School is a diverse and multicultural community, blessed with students from all over the city, the county and the world. We come together bringing our talents, gifts, and experiences to form an incredible, faith-filled, dynamic school. Every school year is a new and interesting mix of challenges. Our Lord journeys with each and every one of us throughout everything that school and life may bring. As a community, we journey together, supporting each other, caring about and for each other and the larger community.

As Chaplain I offer students the opportunity to develop their personal relationship with God, to respond to the Gospel call to reach out and support others. Our Blessed Sacrament Chapel is on the first floor, across from the chaplain's office. Students and staff are encouraged to spend time in prayer and reflection in this sacred place, where our Lord is present to us in his Sacred Body, the Eucharist. The Eucharist which is reserved in our Chapel is a constant reminder that our worship of God in the celebration of the Mass is meant to be the beginning and goal of all that we do even in our most ordinary daily activities. As Chaplain, I am honored to journey with our students, faculty, and staff offering support for grief and loss, illness and personal issues.

Students who are sick or in need of healing are encouraged to stop by the chaplain's office so that they may be prayed over as we read in the Letter of Saint James ... "Is there anyone sick among you? Let him send for the presbyters of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick man and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins they will be forgiven him." (James 5:14-15) Students and teachers are also encouraged to stop by for special blessings when they will be traveling and when they celebrate significant moments in their lives, especially birthday's and anniversaries.

Saint Bernard is a community rooted in the faith as well as over 1500 years of the Benedictine monastic tradition. Our Catholic faith empowers us to walk closely with our God. Chaplaincy is a ministry of service to the staff and students of the Saint Bernard Community.

In a Catholic Christian community, the Chaplain provides for the pastoral care of staff and students. The Chaplain is a visible presence who strives to provide a witness to Christ among us and the Spirit of God working in the life of our community. The Eucharist (the Body and Blood of our Lord) is the 'source and summit' of our Faith; it is out of this foundational belief that our extended prayer life evolves. The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, outreach, and counseling are means by which we strive to "Establish all things in Christ" and thereby further develop and nurture the faith of our community.

Perhaps the most common mission given to the Chaplain is "Go and be a Christian presence in the school". And though we are all called to be a Christian presence in our community and in the world, it is important to have a visible reminder of this in the community. Each Chaplain does this differently and by the grace of God does it well. I spend time getting to know our students, faculty and staff and give them my time. Since I am not involved with the discipline of the

school (except in my own classroom setting), I become a 'safe' person to talk to in the community. I deliberately keep outside the school system, but know enough about it to allow me to be an advocate when needed. This is one way the title of Chaplain, companion, is lived out in our community.

I have served as the Chaplain for the past 10 years. Prior to my time at the Prep School, I served as part-time chaplain for Norton Health Care System in Louisville, KY for over a year, and served as a full-time chaplain at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center where I worked in the Critical and Intensive Care Units, Cardiovascular, and Surgical Units, Neonatal and Obstetrics Units, and Emergency Department (ER).

I am here to serve the Saint Bernard Community by being available to talk or assist, no matter the subject.

These are just some of the ways that I am "a Christian presence" in the school. I encourage you to stop by and visit and help me to serve you and our community better. After all this is not just my mission, I do it on behalf of you. It is your mission also!

In Brief, the Chaplain ...

- Celebrates and preaches at school Masses and provides the Sacraments for our school community.
- Serves the entire community, not just those who are Catholic.
- Helps students, parents, and teachers to make connections between our faith and the various other disciplines we study.
- Supports students, parents, and teachers in times of difficulty, and offers guidance in spiritual questions and struggles.
- Encourages growth in the spiritual and moral dimensions of the human person alongside the school's attention to the intellectual, physical, emotional, and psychological dimensions of the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

In Christ,

Father Bede R. Marcy, O.S.B.

Chaplain, Saint Bernard Preparatory School

Theology Instructor: Dogmatic Theology and Ethics & Morality

## VALUES OF THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE

D

DISCIPLESHIP - Reflecting on and following the mission of Jesus in head, heart, and action.

I

INTEGRITY - Living out the Gospel in all we do.

S

STEWARDSHIP - Developing and using wisely the gifts and resources entrusted to us.

C

COMPASSION - Responding to the call of Jesus by sharing the suffering, hope, and joy of others.

I

INCLUSIVITY - Reflecting the Universal nature of Christ's Church in her call that all may be one in Christ.

P

PROFESSIONALISM - Providing competent and effective ministry within the field of spiritual and pastoral care.

L

LEADERSHIP - Collaborating to develop and nurture the mission of Saint Bernard Preparatory School.

E

EMPOWERMENT - Encouraging others to use their gifts both within the Saint Bernard Community but also reaching out to others.