

Historic Saint Anthony Cathedral Basilica

2015-2016 Stewardship growth in our Parish

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight some of our 2015/2016 Parish activities that have taken us deeper into our conversion of becoming a total stewardship community. Our strides this year were focuses on 1) bringing the community together and 2) developing awareness of stewardship

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Communication: Being Present

This year Saint Anthony Cathedral Basilica has significantly expanded our online presence by upgrading the look and content on our official Saint Anthony Cathedral Face book page as well as updating our web page <http://www.stanthonycathedral.org/>. Both of these items are only useful if kept up to date with current information. This year in order to keep our communication current and effective our Pastor established a volunteer position of Ministerial Assistant for Parish Promotion & Communication (PPC). We have been very blessed to have found a very skilled volunteer for this position. Our new PPC has kept our parish and the larger community apprised of all our Parish activities, ministry information and general Facebook and web page updates. It is now an easy task to find ministry schedules such as our schedule for extra-ordinary Eucharistic ministers. Area visitors can easily find our mass schedules. New parishioners can find general information about our parish, sacrament requirements and more.

Our web information covers a wide variety of topics from Baptism to various bible studies offered. There is now much more information available, such as ministry descriptions, parish events and so much more. Please check out our web site and LIKE us on Facebook.

Another item our Parish has utilized this year is a message system called "Auto Messenger", this communication tool has been set up to where parishioners are advised of events via a phone message and/or

Communicating
is key



text message. Parish ministries have also used this tool to keep in contact with their members; sending meeting reminders and increasing attendance. By effectively communicating and increasing our online presence we have made parish information easily accessible; resulting in increased parish participation and connecting with youth and young adults.



Called to Serve: Sharing our Presence

Some of our most active ministries are:

- **Sack Lunch-** Our Saint Anthony Cathedral Basilica Sack lunch group made 3,900 sandwiches this year alone. On holidays our parish youth and faith formation classes decorate these bags with special messages of hope. Rain or shine these lunches are distributed every Sunday to our area’s homeless.

- **Back Pack Ministry –**

Last year this ministry was a big hit. One hundred back packs were distributed on the plaza to people after masses. Parishioners were given a list of items to fill the backpacks with. These backpacks were then distributed during the Christmas Season to our area homeless. Once again 100 packs were distributed on the plaza giving them all out on the first weekend of



distribution. We had over 30 people ask for the list in order to fill backpacks they would provide and donate to SOP along with the original 100.



- **Food Bank Ministry -**

Under Deacon Posey's leadership, this team has grown from only a handful of volunteers last year to a team of sixteen Saint Anthony Angels who consistently meet at the Southeast Texas food bank every 2nd Saturday of the month. This year The Southeast Texas Food Bank recognized our Saint Anthony team for volunteering 300 hours of hard work and dedication. 12,000 food boxes have been distributed to the needy in eight Southeast Texas counties.



- **Parish ACTS community**

- ✚ *Sunday on the Plaza*
- ✚ *Historical Tours of the Cathedral*
- ✚ *Music Lay Ministry Team*
- ✚ *Acts Day of Reflection*
- ✚ *ACTS Fundraiser Event*

– A Community Building Tool

ACTS has been very successful in getting our Parish fired up about our faith! Both men's and women's retreats continually find enough people to fill team spots; paying forward the experience. Our ACTS CORE team has molded into an effective group taking the lead in building community by hosting various events throughout the year. ACTS regularly hosts "pancake Sundays" which

is effective in facilitating fellowship. New, this year are “Sunday on the Plaza” events. Throughout the year ACTS has hosted several Sunday events after mass. These have greatly drawn people to visit amongst



themselves, and encouraged people to stay on the plaza a few more minutes getting to know each other a little bit better. These Sunday events such as “Ice cream Sunday” or “Cookies and Lemonade Sunday “ and “Soup It Up Sunday” have created an avenue for people to ask questions about ministries, how to join the church, and much more. It has given people an opportunity to be present and enabled people to engage each other. In addition, it has been great for traveling visitors to feel more welcomed.

Our ACTS lay music team has really grown this year. It has developed into a team, that has taken the lead in securing licensing for music which is played at candlelight, as well as helping other parishes with music needs during ACTS retreat weekends. **“Sunday on the Plaza”**- an effective community building tool

ACTS also hosted a **community fundraiser** at Jason’s Deli. Proceeds from this event went to support the Beaumont ACTS community projects and retreats.



EVANGELIZATION



Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy–

This year has been an outstanding year drawing many Catholic and non-Catholics to the Cathedral to experience the grace and reconciliation through participating in this year's extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

Our Cathedral docents have had the great honor of accompanying the numerous pilgrims that have come to the Cathedral to experience walking through the Door of Mercy here at the basilica.

Our 15 docents have given over 35 guided tours to groups and individuals coming from within and outside of our diocese. This has truly been a blessed year and a great opportunity to catechize the faithful. The Jubilee Year has given rise to many opportunities to evangelize our visitors.

A few of the items that were done this year in concert with the Jubilee of Mercy Father Sinclair Oubre has



given several in-depth talks, discussing the Jubilee of Mercy after which attendees toured the Cathedral Basilica.

- **Youth Mission Trip**
This year our Cathedral Youth Group missioned for a week in the Appalachian Mountains helping the needy.



- **Super Summer Kids 2016 program**



This year one of our Cathedral school teachers has been facilitating a nine week program, "Super Summer Kids". Kids could enroll on a weekly or daily



basis. Each day has been a full day of activities, visiting local museums and other kid-friendly location. Weekly visits to the Cathedral have been part of the curriculum. Both kids and chaperones have had a great time each week going through the Cathedral learning a bit more

about our faith and having fun all in one.

Growing Faith

✚ RCIA 15 Adults entered our Catholic church through the sacraments of initiation

✚ 40 young parishioners Baptism/Confirmation


✚ 3 Missions this year

40 young parishioners received their first communion this year. Monsignor's powerful message spoken to the children that day will be one they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Three powerful missions were given this year at the Basilica:



Fr. Cedric Pisegna, C. P.
Live With Passion!
FR. CEDRIC AIRS ON TBN SUNDAYS 7AM



Three Days of Inspiration!
Sat-Tues, December 6-8, 2013
Evening Inspiration 7:50 p.m.
St. Anthony Cathedral
700 Jefferson St. • Beaumont • (409) 883-6433
Bring your family and friends!

Holy Year of Mercy Lenten Mission
"Sixty Minutes with Our Merciful Lord"



Fr. Jim Sichko
Holy Year Papal Missionary of Mercy
Acclaimed International Entertaining Preacher,
Down to Earth Practical Author and Story Teller
March 14 - 16 @ 6:30 p.m.
Many Priests for Easter Confessions on March 16th
St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica
Child Care Provided Each Evening

Fr. Keeler also present a mission this year at the Cathedral.

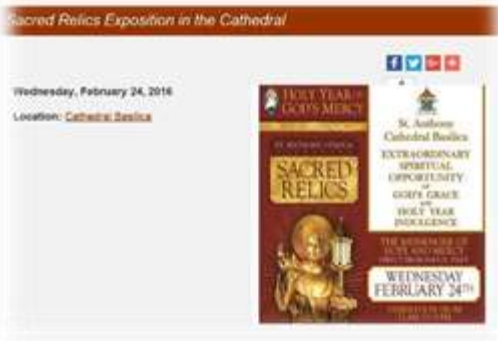
Events promoting Culture and Faith:

-  *Sacred Relics Exposition*
-  *Six Sacred Music Concerts*
-  *Ecumenical Luncheons*
-  *Fortnight for Freedom*

New This Year

This year our Parish hosted several new events throughout the year, encouraging and inviting people throughout the Diocese to experience spiritual growth through special presentations some of which are listed on the following page.

Sacred Relics Exposition



This year Saint Anthony Cathedral Basilica hosted the display of Saint Anthony of Padua Relic. Our Cathedral pews were filled with those seeking to better understand how relic and Saints reinforce and strengthen our faith

Six Sacred Music Concerts

This past year Saint Anthony Cathedral Basilica held six free concerts for cultural strengthening and religious enrichment of the wider community. All faiths, and walks of life were welcomed. Each concert was well attending and received.



Ecumenical Luncheons - The Cathedral held a total of 9 Inter-faith luncheons for area clergy to gather and ecumenically discuss how together we can better serve our community.



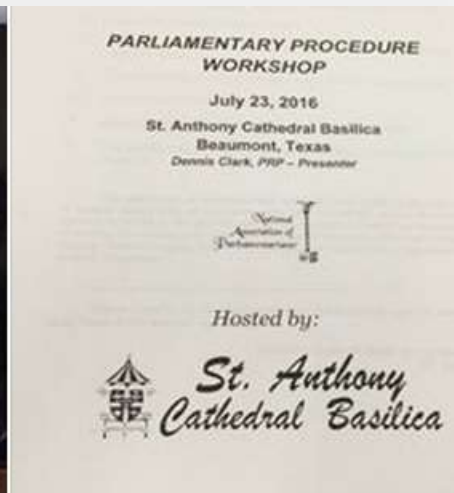
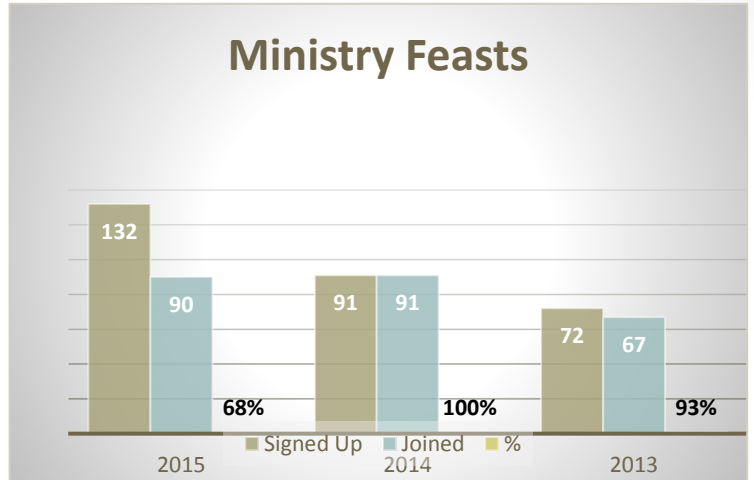
“Let Freedom Ring” - The Cathedral annually participates and promote Fortnight for Freedom as a community outreach event. On the 4th all were invited to hear the bells toll at noon, and later watch the fireworks display from the parish lawn and plaza. About 100 people participated in family style picnic enjoying patriotic music and watching the night sky light up with the fireworks from Riverfront Park.

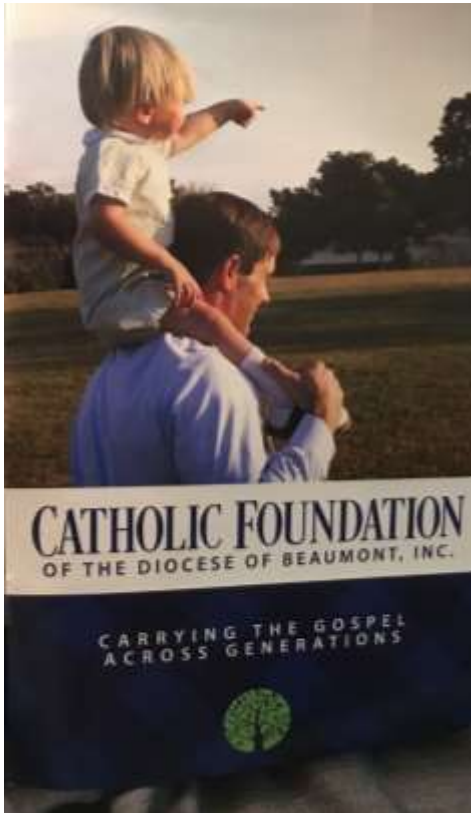
Stewardship Renewal

Our annual stewardship ministry fair and stewardship awareness campaign saw an increase of parishioners signing up for various ministries and/or rededicating to continue in their ministry work.

This year several workshops and presentations were hosted by our parish Stewardship committee in efforts to empower our ministry leaders:

- ✚ Parliamentary workshop
- ✚ Celebration of Ministries Night
- ✚ Building A Parish Dream Team





Our Parish has been a unique steward in our diocese by committing itself in carrying Christ's Gospel message across generations by establishing and actively grows two major endowment funds: 1) The Cathedral Preservation and Development Fund (\$1,112,797.00) and 2) Saint Anthony's Callaghan Fund (\$1,066,265.00). Both endowment funds have made considerable growth since consistent contributions are promoted by our active parish stewardship and the generous responses of good and faithful stewards of God's Gifts in our parish and beyond. We believe we are unique in the diocese and in a singular way lead as an excellent model of faithful stewardship through parish centered permanent endowments to care for our facilities and ministries to those in need. According to the President of the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Beaumont, Inc. "No other parish in

the diocese has established or actively grows such parish centered permanent endowments for future generations."

Dear Committee,

We greatly appreciate this opportunity to highlight our parish stewardship growth. We would also like to thank you for your time and hard work in making this program effective. Your continued guidance and aid supports developing stewardship at the parish level. Blessing to you all.

We gratefully acknowledge the blessings & prayerful support of our Pastor.

Respectfully,

Saint Anthony Cathedral Basilica Stewardship Committee