

Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard



TOM WISNIEWSKI RECEIVES CHARLIE GRILL AWARD

On Saturday, November 10th, the St. Bernard Men's Club honored parishioner Tom Wisniewski by presenting him with the 2018 Charlie Grill Award for outstanding service in the name of Jesus Christ. Tom was recognized for over 4 decades of selfless dedication to St. Bernard Parish and the Somerset County community.

Tom helped bring the Men's Cornerstone program to St. Bernard and has been taking communion to parish shut-ins since the early days of the St. Bernard's Eucharistic Minister program. He has also been an active member of our Men's Club from the beginning back in 1985, and served as chairman for the first few years.

As one of the lead carpenters in the parish-sponsored Homes for Appalachia Mission, Tom has traveled to West Virginia with high school students and other volunteers for many years, helping build and rebuild homes for those living in poverty. In years past, Tom even used his carpentry skills to craft the awards given to the recipients of the Charlie Grill Award.

Tom also volunteers with the Samaritan Homeless Internship Program (SHIP), and is a "regular" on the food truck, bringing meals to those in need in Somerset County.

Tom and his wife Judy join a small group of husband and wife teams who have received both of our Men's Club stewardship awards, with Judy being honored with the 2018 Merle Anderson award for faith driven service. Tapping into the holy spirit, they truly are a "power couple," and we at St. Bernard are grateful for all they have done over their many years as a part of the parish.

We congratulate Tom and thank him for his contributions and for bringing a wonderful sense of inspiration and optimism to the St. Bernard community.

WHO WAS CHARLIE GRILL?

Charlie was a life-long, dedicated parishioner of St. Bernard dating back to the original church in Raritan, NJ. Charlie and his wife Kitty had a love of God and neighbor. This love was expressed in their service to God, church, family, country and community. Charlie succumbed to leukemia in 1993. Following his passing, the Men's Club initiated an annual award in his honor to be given to a male parishioner who demonstrates many of the same characteristics and acts of service that Charlie did for so many years. That tradition continues today in a very vibrant way.

The nominee and recipient of the award must demonstrate the following:

- Performs service in a manner that reflects the love of Christ
- Is a member of St. Bernard Church and a regular communicant
- Performs acts of service while a member of St. Bernard Church
- Performs acts of service that include but are not limited to: ministry to the homebound, nursing and assisted living facilities, the homeless, hospitals, the poor/needy, missionary work, Catholic Charities, Diocese)
- Is reliable and accountable in fulfilling service commitments



PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE CHARLIE GRILL AWARD

1996—Bob McNamara
1997—Gene Quinteri
1998—Walt Steele
1999—Fr. John Brundage
2000—Art Sanford
2001—Leo Delaney
2002—Bill Coscia
2003—Brian Roe
2004—Bill Funkhouser
2005—John Mahler
2006—Ed Dobrosky
2007—Jack Hurley
2008—Ron Krilla
2009—Tom Van Horne
2010—Peter Papa
2011—Gerry Nugent
2012—Bernie McElroy
2013—John Casey
2014—Russ Nesbitt
2015—Mark Dransfield
2016—Ron Haikes
2017—Joe Stevens



HELPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

St. Bernard parishioners stepped up last weekend and adopted 25 families through the Adopt-a-Family initiative that provides holiday meal baskets to families in need through the Food Bank of Bound Brook. There was a great response to the program and all families were adopted by the 12 noon Mass on Sunday.

For those who weren't able to adopt a family and provide a basket, our Christian Services Commission has coordinated other opportunities to help, including donating gift cards or groceries to SHIP, Catholic Charities, and the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. These donations will be delivered in time to help needy families prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Still want to help?

Donations are needed throughout the holiday season and beyond to help the less fortunate in our community. You can help by bringing food donations or grocery gift cards directly to the Food Bank or SHIP, or by contributing right here at St. Bernard on the second Sunday of each month. Specific information about what to donate can be found on the St. Bernard website.

SHIP
87 High Street
Somerville, NJ
908-393-9548

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County
9 Easy Street
Bridgewater, NJ
732-560-1813



Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?

Please contact Mark Dransfield (dransfam@gmail.com or by calling 908-526-6649)