



## **Up to Bat**

by Fr. Kevin Richter

Attending a Kuemper tournament baseball game gave me occasion to call to mind my own high school baseball experience. I attended high school at Granville Spalding, which had a storied baseball history. So, when I arrived there my freshman year, I felt more than a bit out of place on the baseball team. In the end, I settled into a role as water boy and bench warmer, and I was rather content to hide there in the shadows of the more experienced and skilled players.

But on a particular day when we were playing our archrivals from Remsen St. Mary's (who have their own storied baseball history), I was startled when I suddenly heard the coach yell across the dugout, "Richter, get in to bat." I have to admit that I wasn't being particularly attentive to the game, and so was absolutely unprepared. But I got up off the bench and grabbed a helmet and bat. As I walked past the coach, he said, "Be sure to watch me for the signals." I thought to myself (not daring to say anything out loud), "What signals?! Nobody taught me any signals!" I stood there, awkwardly swinging the bat for some practice, hoping it would bring me out of the daze I felt. But before I knew it, I was up to bat.

I stepped towards the plate, and then looked over at the coach. He was making some wonderful gestures that made absolutely no sense to me. I stepped up to the plate. First pitch. I didn't swing the bat. Strike one.

I stepped away from the plate, and looked at the coach – again, meaningless gestures. Back up to the plate for the second pitch. I didn't swing the bat. Strike two.

At this point, the catcher yelled out to the pitcher, "Don't worry about this guy. He doesn't know what he's doing." I thought to myself, "Is it that obvious?!" I looked at the coach – more meaningless gestures. Back up to the plate for the third pitch. I didn't swing the bat. Strike three.

As I walked back towards the dugout, two things happened. First, I heard a varsity player yell out, "Don't worry. You got robbed on that third one." I knew he meant to be encouraging, but I also knew that what he said wasn't true. It was just an excuse. Second, the coach came over to me, put his arm across my shoulders and simply said, "If I put you in, you've got to at least swing the bat." I knew that what he said WAS true.

That was it. That is the extent of my high school baseball career. (I became a swimmer instead!) But even if I only had one at-bat, there are several life lessons that I learned:

**We've got to keep our head in the game.** So often, we can be unfocused and unaware of what is happening around us. It's good and even necessary for us to be aware of our surroundings, to be attentive to people around us, to be engaged and involved in our families, our neighborhoods, our local communities and the larger world. We can't just be "on the bench" – we need to be engaged and "tuned in."

**We need to know the signals.** What signals? The signals that God uses to "speak" to us. We need to learn how to be aware of the ways that God seeks to lead us and guide us through the daily events of our lives. This means that we need to spend time in prayer, developing a relationship, taking responsibility to know and understand what God is signaling to us.

**We can't rely on excuses.** We need to "buck up" and take responsibility for who we are and how we are in the world.

**We've got to at least swing the bat.** This means that we have to give our best efforts to whatever we have before us. We can't just stand there. Instead, we have to try to do our part for the sake of the team, "swinging for the fences" if necessary. When we give our all for the sake of God's kingdom, then God will bless our efforts with great fruitfulness....

Peace. Fr. Kevin

### **CRHP Weekend Retreats are announced:**

**Women's Retreat** is September 9 & 10, 2017

**Men's Retreat** is September 30 & October 1, 2017

For more information or to register contact

Sue Boes 712-792-1248 or Brandon Nepper 712-790-8316

**ONLINE GIVING:** Now you can contribute your church support & special collection contributions online. Go to our website & click on the online giving logo. Make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation.

Questions? Please phone the parish office. 792-9244

**Thursday 4pm Holy Hour Cancellation:** I had intended to maintain our 4pm Thursday Holy Hour, Rosary, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Evening Prayer. I am now unable to preside at the Hour Hour at this day/time. After considering suitable alternatives, I do not see a way to continue the Holy Hour each week. While this Holy Hour for vocations is cancelled, the Holy Spirit Adoration Chapel is still available for all to pray at their convenience. In lieu of Thursday Celebration of Reconciliation at St. Lawrence, the Sacrament will be offered fifteen minutes before our Friday 7 am daily Mass. Line up early in case I arrive early. -- Fr. Brian Feller

**Something New:** by Fr. Brian Feller

This summer I accompanied 70-some Carroll area teens to the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri for the annual Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference July 14-16. The conference's website accurately describes the weekend as "a high-energy youth conference where thousands of teens are invited to encounter Jesus Christ through dynamic speakers, engaging music, the Sacraments, small group discussions, and fellowship with other teens." It is sponsored by Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Along with the teens we had around a dozen adult and young adult group leaders. Connor Sabatka, our CCYM intern, Katherine Dea, the new campus minister at Kuemper, and seminarian Travis Crotty were among them.

The weekend is electric. Kids are singing, worshipping God with ardent and unfettered hearts, and are filled with excitement. Most importantly, Jesus Christ is seeking our teens and they are responding with open hearts. One would hear teen participants say things such as: "That was awesome!" "Mass was long but it was cool" "That was the best confession I have ever had" "Mass made way more sense" "Adoration is my favorite."

Jesus is always seeking us. Our teens are seeking Jesus as well, sometimes intentionally and sometimes unbeknownst to them. I say this because anytime we search for meaning, love, happiness, we in effect search for God, who is the source of all meaning, love, and happiness. And Jesus Christ is the Son of God *in the flesh*. It makes sense that Jesus designates himself as the way, the truth, and the life. The presenters, musicians, and directors of the Steubenville weekend conference understand that our teens need to be engaged in such a way that the teens recognize that a relationship with Jesus *and* active membership in his Church provide for the fulfillment of their desires, the meaning for which they search, and the unconditional love for which they long.

When it comes to the evangelization and catechesis of our parishes' teens, the first requirement is not placed on the teens, but on ourselves (parents, relatives, catechists, priests, etc.). I believe our youth need us to engage their hearts and minds in such ways that they see the Gospel as true, understandable, and relatable to the whole of their lives. Sharing facts about faith is good, but insufficient. How can we stir hearts and enlighten minds?

We must recognize and take advantage of the opportunities for our children to *experience* God (taking children to beautiful celebrations of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, serving those in need, especially the marginalized, etc.). Our youth might need us to describe how we encounter God in these occasions. We must *dialogue* with our children, seeking to understand their perspectives and engage the Catholic faith, way of life, the scriptures, etc. with them clearly, honestly, and intelligently. We must *model* God's unconditional love and the path of following Jesus – both by what we *say* (or don't say) and what we *do* (or don't do). Let us call this approach *Discipleship*. We, the adult members of the Church, are called to invite and form our children as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our CCYM Internship with Connor Sabatka as our intern has gone very well this summer. In cooperation with the Holy Spirit, Connor reflected upon the weekend Mass readings each week in discipleship groups of teens. He started a youth council through which teens could plan youth events and be mentored in the faith. Connor also led praise and worship in Eucharistic Adoration with the Sacrament of Reconciliation each Wednesday night (approximately 50 youth attended on the evening of July 19). The youth are sad to see Connor leave, but he needs to go finish his senior year of college. I am very proud of Connor. We wish him the very best.

But, as Fr. Kevin relayed in his bulletin announcement, we are seeking to hire a full-time youth minister through CCYM to serve all the teens of the county. This is great news! We are not hiring a youth minister to lead the youth *on our behalf*. While the youth minister will continue Connor's good work, he or she will also guide us (the parents, relatives, catechists, priests, etc.) in our efforts to disciple our teens. We do not hire to put the full evangelical responsibility for discipleship on one person, but rather that this one person may help us, the many, better disciple our youth. Please pray for the faithfulness and fruitfulness of this discipleship approach to encouraging and forming our youth in our Catholic faith. Thank you and God bless!

**P.A.C.E.-St. Lawrence Parishioners Assisting Catholic Education:** PACE is a St. Lawrence parish program that will give tuition assistance of \$500.00 to parish families who, for the first time, enroll their child in Kuemper Catholic Schools (kindergarten or higher grade). Only 1 child per family is eligible. Please contact Sue at St. Lawrence 792-9244 if you can benefit from this program. She will email you or send you the Application Form.

## St. Lawrence Finance Council Minutes: July 15, 2017

7:30 AM in Rectory Meeting Room Members present: Jeff Koster, Julie Borelli, Denny Vetter, Bill Wiedemeyer, Marcie Wernimont, Daryl Boeckman, Vickie Drees and Fr. Kevin Richter

Meeting began with a prayer led by Fr. Kevin Richter

May meeting minutes reviewed. Motion to approve by Jeff Koster and seconded by Daryl Boeckman. Approved by the board.

Sue Seidl attended the meeting and reviewed the following financial reports:

- Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2017
- Profit & Loss (July 2016 – April 2017)
- Listing of Current Obligations (5/17/17)

The General Ledger as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and the Deposit Detail were also reviewed. Motion to approve the financial statements presented by Jeff Koster and seconded by Daryl Boeckman. Minutes approved by the board.

Youth Ministry (CCYM) was discussed. A motion made by Vickie Drees and seconded by Julie Borelli to dedicate the funds invested in the Edward Jones account, that were left to the parish by an estate, to be used to fund a full-time position to maintain and expand the CCYM Organization. The motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Richter reported that for June we had 5 new parishioners and 2 transferred out. The meeting was adjourned and ended in a prayer.

Next meeting: August 19, 2017 – 7:30 AM – Rectory Basement Meeting Room

**Kuemper SCRIP** is a fundraiser that allows anyone to place an order for a gift certificate or gift card at a variety of businesses, local and national. The businesses give a portion of all sales back to Kuemper and 50% of the return can be used to reduce a child's tuition or be given to a designated parish assessment. If you no longer have children in school you can purchase SCRIP and designate a parish or any family to receive the tuition credit. You may also start purchasing SCRIP early before a child reaches school age & "bank" the credit until it is needed. It is a simple way to give back to the Kuemper Catholic School System without spending any additional money! To get started, you may go to the Kuemper website at [www.kuemper.org](http://www.kuemper.org) & click on "SCRIP" or contact Jina Brincks at 712-794-1875 to get signed up!

**HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS:** If you (or someone you know) is unable to come to Mass in our parish, please notify Shirley Molitor 830-6581 or myself. We can visit, pray, celebrate the Anointing of the Sick, & bring Communion to you in your home. Call Fr. Brian Feller 792-9244.



Leave a legacy to your parish.  
Remember Saint Lawrence Parish in your Will.

**Catechists are needed for CCRE for all grades. Help pass on the faith and grow in yours. Groups are small and a book is your guide. Contact Deacon Tim Murphy to find out more at 792-0513.**

### CCRE Registration Forms for 2017-2018 School Year!

Just Google CCRE Carroll or call 792-0513. Tuition \$60/child.

**Please register now and pay by the first day of class! Then relax and enjoy your summer....Registration papers are on the website!**

**Our children need religious education each year, but as a minimum they must be enrolled in 1st and 9th grade to receive the sacraments the following year.**

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Haiti-Notre Dame de Lourdes \$ 1,452.00  
Peter's Pence-Holy Father \$ 774.50

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## Our Stewardship:

June 2017

### Parish Income:

Adult Church Support	\$ 109,885.75
Youth Church Support	44.00
Loose Offerings Church Support	1,661.41
DAA from Diocese	865.00
Interest & Dividend Income	2,313.80
Unrestricted Income	1,295.00
Haiti Income	1,452.00
CCYM Income	1,660.67
Scrip Income	614.10
Miscellaneous Income	697.00

### Total Income:

**\$ 120,488.73**

### Parish Expenses:

Pastor Salary	\$ 2,485.95
Parochial Vicar Salary	1,479.80
Pastor Health Insurance	933.60
Parochial Vicar Health Insurance	700.20
Religious Education Salary	835.42
Music Director Salary	3,759.50
Pastoral Minister Wages	1,184.50
Secretary Wages	3,421.66
Housekeeper Wages	406.73
Janitor Wages	934.74
Lay Employees' Benefits	2,020.32
Telephone	298.24
Priest Food & Provisions	344.78
Postage & Printing Services	820.69
Office Supplies	737.02
Offering Envelopes	608.37
Utilities-Gas, Electricity, Water	932.82
Repairs/Maintenance Church & Hall	1,560.73
Professional Services	1,300.00
Property & Liability Insurance	1,416.00
KCSS Assessment	69,217.35
Diocesan Administration	1,282.00
Globe Assessment	1,551.50
CCYM Youth Ministry Expenses	2,272.05
Haiti \$ Sent	1,578.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,056.17

### Total Expenses:

**\$103,138.14**



Saint Lawrence Church  
 1607 N. West St.  
 Carroll, IA 51401

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 Website: [www.saintlawrencecarroll.org](http://www.saintlawrencecarroll.org)

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**MEN'S CLUB COFFEE & DONUTS:**   
 Sunday, July 30 after all Masses! Everyone is welcome!

**Garage Sale for Sister Parish in Haiti:**  
**St. Lawrence School Gym, 1519 N West St. is**  
**Friday, August 4, from 12noon-5:00pm**  
**& Saturday, August 5, 9:00-11:00am**  
 SPECIAL: Saturday 10-11 am only...Fill your bag for \$1.00  
 You can drop off your garage sale items to donate  
 on Wednesday, August 2 from 4-6pm  
 and also on Thursday, August 3 from 12noon-4pm  
 Bring in your baked goods and fresh garden produce for the sale.  
 Friday, August 4 from 10am-12noon

\*\*\*\*\*

We need furniture, toys, games, kitchen items,  
 decorations, lamps, misc. items.   
 We are looking for volunteers (men, women & students) to  
 pick up items, set up the garage sale,  
 and help during the sale.  
 Sign-up sheets are available in church this weekend!!  
 Keep the stub as a reminder and put the rest of the slip on  
 a table at the door, in the collection basket  
 or the rectory office mailbox.

**RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION:**

August 26-27 Your gift to this collection provides medications, nursing care and more for the many sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry. The envelope is in your packet...Please be generous!

**St. Lawrence Day is August 10...**

To celebrate the Ladies Guild will be serving Cookies & Lemonade in the narthex on Saturday, August 12 and the Men's Club will have Coffee & Donuts in Collison Hall on Sunday, August 13 after both Masses!  
 Come help us Celebrate St. Lawrence Parish!

**Welcome to the new team of priests for Carroll County**

We want to make sure that we are available to the people of each of the parishes, so the priests will be living at each of the sites where Pastors are currently living:

- Fr. Kevin Richter – Holy Spirit, Carroll (with Willey)
- Fr. Brian Feller – St. Lawrence, Carroll (with Lidderdale)
- Fr. Mark Stoll – Breda (with Mt. Carmel and Arcadia)
- Fr. Shinoj Jose – Halbur (with Roselle and Templeton)
- Fr. John Gerald – Coon Rapids (with Dedham and Glidden)

In general, each priest will oversee that parish/cluster of parishes where they reside. Fr. Kevin Richter, as Pastor, will have a rotation of office hours through each of the parishes/clusters. WELCOME!

**STEPPING STONES**

**Baptized in Christ:**

- Jamison Robert Roder (son of Skyler & Ashley Roder)
- Kinsley Ann Clausen (daughter of Shawn Clausen & Maria Cullen)

**Married in Christ:**

- Gregory Drees & Haley Klocke (June 10)
- Evan Aldinger & Allissa Knudsen (June 17)
- Nicholas Peterson & Sarah Mailander (July 8)

**Died in Christ:**

- +Lenus Schulte (July 3)
- +Donald Brown (July 9)
- +Delores Determan (July 11)

