

The Bells of Saint Mary

July, 2010

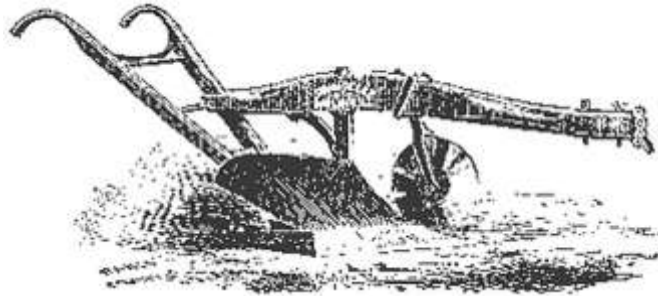
With My Hand on the Plow: The Red Shirt Project

It is such an exciting time, the Red Shirt Project. And it has changed so much over the years. This will be my 11th mission trip this July 18th to August 3rd and I just as excited as any other year. Some years I have more trepidation than other years...this is one of those years because times are tough and raising money is harder this year...but we rest in the Lord, always, and I am sure that we will have enough to make the trip and the projects this year. Maybe at the last minute...but there will be enough. Please help.

The Red Shirt Project is the brainchild of the Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls, Jr. Red Shirt is the name of the village that Robert is from on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and is the home of his parents, Robert and Delores Two Bulls, who live on the edge of the Badlands about two miles up the road from the village. When Bob and I first started talking about eleven years ago, it was always with the idea of economic development, not putting band-aids on problems. That has not changed. And what it was then, and what it has become over the years, is all about building relationships with the people of the village and those of us who travel from around the country to spend ten days camping at Christ Episcopal Church and working on various projects in and around the village. This summer I will see Brandon Two Bulls, who is now eighteen but whom I have known since he was seven, go off to college at Black Hills State studying in chemical engineering! Brandon is the first of the three sons who is going to college. His brother Justin finished High School but has not gone on with

his studies, and his little brother Henry, who is now fifteen, will be a sophomore in High School this fall. The funds that you have given in the past and are giving this year have contributed to Brandon staying in school, having more than three shirts to his name, and an understanding that more than just his Dad and brothers believe in him. What has happened over the years of the Project is that Brandon came to believe in himself, and that the gifts God has given him can be encouraged and can grow with the help and belief of many others.

It is the call from God to give that lies at the heart of the Red Shirt Project. Not just money, but time, and talent and self. So many people have had their lives and their perspective on their own Christian faith change because of their involvement in the work of the Project. I encourage you to go to our website at



www.stmaryslompoc.org and click on the Red Shirt Project cross at the lower left hand side of the screen and go to the website for the Project. There you will find testimonials that are some of the more remarkable things I have ever read. You will also find pictures and information about the mission of the Project and how it has come to be such an important part of our ministry and outreach to others here at St. Mary's.

As of this writing, there are five or six of us from St. Mary's going. Three young adults and three or four adults will be joining young people and grown-ups from all over the country here at St. Mary's on July 18th to begin the great mission trip to Red Shirt. We will travel to Hacienda Heights that afternoon and spend the night at

St. Thomas'. At five in the morning on the 19th, we will rustle everybody up and head out, hoping to make it to about half way through Utah that first day. On to Casper, Wyoming the second day and then onto the Pine Ridge Reservation in the south-west corner of South Dakota by mid-day on the 20th. We will make camp; begin our projects that next morning after our worship that begins each day. Over the course of the next ten days, we will scrape, sand, and paint the outside of the Parish Hall, build three handicapped ramps into people's homes in the village, repair some significant amounts of barbed-wire fence near the Cheyenne River which recently flooded, taking out our cattle guards and fence into the memorial park area that has the Pow-Wow Shade Arbor we built some years back. We have some maintenance to do on the baseball field fence, which has seen some of the chain-link fencing give way to horses using it for a scratching post, and always, there are repairs to be made to the two skate parks we have built.

No television, no video games, no cell phones (they don't work there anyway); it is a return to simple conversation, shared leadership and acknowledged need to be in relationship with your fellow campers. Guitars and voices provide music, not radios or CD players. There will be heat, lots of it, wild weather, and people like me constantly reminding everybody to drink enough water. There will also be time to learn from our elders the ways of life on the Rez, some of the history of the Lakota/Oglala people, and most of all, the deep appreciation of the land and the rhythm of the earth that is such a hallmark of the people who call the Pine Ridge Reservation home. We will worship every day in a land that has been home to over twenty Episcopal Churches for over one hundred years. There is so much that God reveals to us on mission. Our job is just to make people aware that it is all available for us to learn...we need only pay attention and be attentive to what God is doing in our lives.

Please consider writing a check and helping us make the trip. If you can, you will be helping young people go to a place where they can learn so much about themselves and their faith. Checks can be made out to St. Mary's. Just

make sure to write RSP or Red Shirt Project on the memo line so our Counters know where to direct the funds to go. Thank you for all your support these past two years as we never could have made it without you. I pray that you will help us again take these kids on a mission trip to themselves...so that they may be what we know they can be, future leaders for our church and our world. With a heart that beats for the Gospel message of justice, love and compassion for all of our God's creation, and created ones. God bless you for your help.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael



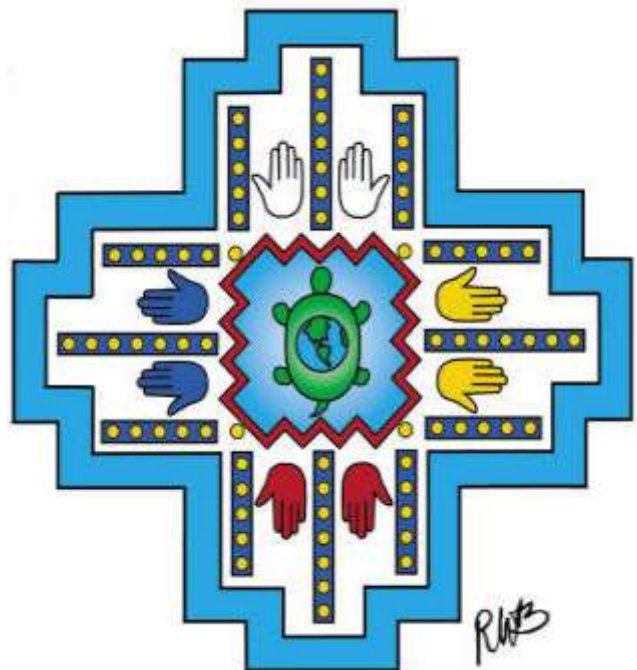
The origin of the Red Shirt Project Symbol

I was inspired by the Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno's "Hands in Healing Cross", which seems to me to speak universally a message of peace to all people. I wanted to design a cross that could carry a similar message but with more symbolism. In the past I have designed many logos that were multilayered, with symbols derived directly from my own cultural background, the Oglala Lakotas. These symbols tend to cross other cultural and traditional boundaries, making the cross a universal symbol.

I will begin my description with the turtle in the center, then go outward in the four directions. In one traditional Native American creation story, the turtle rose from the depths of the waters, and on its back emerged what we call today the North and South American continents, or Turtle Island.

The blue around the turtle represents the ocean depths from which the turtle emerged. So we have water and earth. The red line that encloses the turtle and water represents the Good Red Road. In Lakota tradition the Red Road is the road we are supposed to walk on. It is akin to the old saying: walking on the straight and narrow.

Stemming from the center are four sets of hands with palms outstretched, which signifies the openness and welcoming that is needed more in the world. Each hand is colored with the Lakota four direction colors, white, yellow, red and black (or dark blue). Some folks used to say that the colors represented the colors of the four races of humanity, but today we know that there are more than four races.



The color white signifies the North from which the cold wind blows. The color yellow signifies the East from the rising of the sun. The color red is the South from which the warm winds blow, as well as the direction of the Good Red Road. The dark blue is symbolic of the setting sun or nighttime.

The bars with the yellow dots symbolize the stars in the universe, and help exemplify the vastness of space and the fact that we all live on a small spinning planet. The blue border encompassing the cross is the blue sky from which our prayers rise to God our Creator.

Finally I leave it to the people viewing to find something that they relate to in their spiritual lives since like any piece of art it is open to interpretation.

The Rev. Robert Two Bulls

Red Shirt Testimonials

Christopher J.

Michael first asked me to come to Red Shirt in the summer of 2005. He told me it would be a "life-changing" experience. I was kind of skeptical saying to myself: 'yeah life changing, we'll see about that'. The first year we built a baseball field. The work was excruciating, but fulfilling. I felt as though I was really accomplishing something, and that was important for a kid who felt as though he really hadn't accomplished anything his whole life. But I didn't feel that 'life changing' moment that Michael described. Other people felt it. They stated it openly, and I envied them for their experience but looked down upon myself for my inability to grasp the revelations that they had. The second year we built a half-pipe for the kids who liked to skateboard. Again the work was both spiritually and mentally rewarding. I felt like a better person afterward, well I was a better person after that second year. The third year was kind of chill. We did maintenance work as well as finish the half pipe. After three years I came to better understand my moral obligation to help those who couldn't help themselves. I had this place called Red Shirt tucked in my heart, a place from which I could draw strength and guidance. The experience had matured me to a spiritual and knowledgeable degree that I was mostly satisfied with. But that life changing moment still escaped me.

Then the fourth year came. Most people only go three years, and when Michael asked me to go for a fourth I was like: "Yeah! Definitely". But this fourth trip I had a mission. I wanted to have that life changing experience that I had heard about on my first trip. I needed that. I needed it because I felt incomplete without it; I felt as though I hadn't experienced what I should've, that I had 'wasted' my free time up there just playing or relaxing. So we set off to do the work the Lord had made (I'm pretty sure that's in a song I heard). It was a good group that year,

the best one of the four. But again, after the work was done and I was packing up my tent I still hadn't had that life changing experience. But then Henry, one of the young kids from the village, walked up to me and started talking. He said he wanted to give me something to show how much he cared about what we had done and he reached in his pocket and gave me his game boy. Now on the surface it doesn't sound like much, a kid gives up a toy so what? But this wasn't any normal kid. This is a kid who broke his ankle and while he was screaming in pain had to find the strength to keep his dad from crying as well. This is a kid who has 3 shirts. Who, like his older brother, has to take his clothes home and wears them almost everyday. This is a kid who sometimes doesn't even get 3 meals a day. And he reached out and gave me one of his most valuable possessions. He doesn't have anything to give away but he gave that to me, to ME. And there it was. That was the moment I was looking for. That was the moment that I could point to for the rest of my life and say it forever changed me. He showed a genuine form of love. He showed me that two total strangers, worlds apart, could love each other like blood relatives. And he showed me that what I had done for him and his village had truly mattered and was truly appreciated. He touched my heart, something few people have ever done, and I felt the most joyous, peaceful, indescribable wonderful feeling of my life. It was at that moment that I committed myself to life of public service. I said to myself: "If I can be as selfless and compassionate as Henry then maybe others can feel what I felt on that day. Maybe if I loved them as Henry loved me the world might be a little better of a place".

Red Shirt Testimonials, Continued

Ka-Yun C.

I went to Pine Ridge two times, in 2000 and 2007. Both trips were amazing experiences because I got to help the community and meet new friends. The first trip was really interesting. First of all, I was the youngest kid and I was having bit of doubts when it comes to communication. I did not realize that I will be bonding with so many people and I was afraid that my hearing loss would get in the way. But this trip showed me there are more ways to connect with others. I learned to teach others and learn from others as well. I taught my language and showed them a different way of expressions. The others had taught me their culture and appreciation of nature It was my first time seeing wild horses. That trip was also a test for me. A problem had arisen within our group and I was saddened by it but I helped my friend by sticking with her. Not because she was one of my best friends, but she helped me a lot. With God's help, I faced different things I would never have experienced in my teen life here.

The second trip involved fixing up a skate park and repainting a shed, which I had done before the previous trip. I reunited with old friends and welcomed many new friends. I felt different at that time because I was growing up and at the same time, there were several different people with different cultures. That trip was very interesting and it was also when I realized there were so many thunderstorms. While it is dangerous, it is also another way for Mother Nature to show us a way. Every time there are thunderstorms, everyone had to come inside and wait for it to past. There were some little issues but when everyone is inside together, somehow those tiny tidbits just disappear. It is like you never knew until you lose it. I love thunderstorms for it and because I like watching it as well. It was also the trip when I felt several mixed emotions. I was fortunate to

meet several people who helped me throughout the trip. Those trips are not just to help other community, to reunite with others, to learn about what Mother Nature has to give. It is also about internal growth. You experience, learn, and grow. I no longer feel the need to worry about communication barriers. I got the chance to meet people of all ages. Each of them has something to offers and it is what makes the trips precious. It is also test of your faith. Trust and you will move on.

VESTRY SPEAKS

Your Vestry's meeting started late so we skipped the reflection period and went right to work. That was the only negative of the night. After the last two intense meetings it was good that God gave us a break with a lighthearted atmosphere, not that the vestry took the meeting lightly or did not discuss issues seriously.

We approved the start of our audit process with Jim Gibson and Jeanne Johnston as the audit team. The audit is an important item in the presentation we will be making to the Corporation of the Diocese in September as we seek permission for the sale of our rectory.

We spent a great deal of time on advertising in the Bells, eventually giving the go ahead. Please read the related article in this edition of the Bells for more information.

We had a real lift after the previous lengthy discussions we had about the "Burn the Mortgage" plan. The congregation is stepping up to the plate and hitting homeruns. With the way we are going next June will be a real happy, joyful and mortgage burning time.

Fr. Michael reported that newcomer incorporation, which for years has been weak to non-existent, is being resurrected with full incorporation by September.

That is all to report, have a safe and happy summer.

Your Vestry



July & August Birthdays

Michael Cunningham	7/01
Glen Newcomb	7/02
Madison Homuth	7/05
Deanna Daggon	7/06
Aaron Huenger	7/06
Gladys Bonnell	7/07
Kevin Broderick	7/08
Angel McLairty	7/12
Claudia (Suzy) Griffin	7/15
Karen Florence Davis	7/16
Margaret [Margie] Coe	7/17
Andres Munson	7/18
Stephen Bastian	7/19
Sophia Prothero	7/24
David Linscott	7/26
Simon Cunningham	7/27
Uini Davis	7/30
Cory Gusland	8/03
Karen Unrue	8/04
Elizabeth Hatcher	8/06
Sonia Twells	8/07
Stephanie Kazianka	8/08
Kathy Cady	8/10
Deborah Dunn	8/10
Zachary Smith	8/10
Scott Larson	8/18
Mary Newcomb	8/18
Michael Adams	8/21
Mary Sharp	8/21
Jeff Bastian	8/22
Bruce Macomber	8/22
Carol Gransie	8/23
Frances Jane Longley	8/24
Clive Foy	8/29
Abigail Linn	8/29
Gisele Boyd-Snee	8/30
Juliet Richardson	8/30
Catherine (Kay) Rowland	8/31
Kati Smith Plummer	8/31

Can you help us?

Can you loan us a van for the Red Shirt Project . . .

Call Fr. Michael 757-0726

We need baseball equipment to give to the kids in Red Shirt Village. . .

Can you help?

Call Fr. Michael.757-0726

July Work Party

If you are a member of Team John, or would like to be, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on July 10th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Marno Goetsch (team leader), John Sipos, Sally Goetsch, Stewart and Jeanne Johnston, Rick Kendall, and Sheryl Murray.

August Work Party

If you are a member of Team Matthew, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on August 14th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Howard Gould (team leader), Ruth Hicks (lunches), and Nemesio Balcena, John Beeler, Bill and Kathy Cady, Peggy Gould and Louise Larson.

Financial Statement (As of May 31st, 2010)

Undesignated checking/savings	\$66,499
Designated checking *	\$30,342
Designated fund obligations *	\$30,342
Parish mortgage	\$367,432

	Actual May 10	Actual Jan - May 10	Budget Jan - May 10
Income	\$27,702	\$140,978	\$143,878
Expenses	\$29,255	\$157,630	\$154,917
Net income/(loss)	(\$1,553)	(\$16,652)	(\$11,038)

* Includes BURN the MORTGAGE fund: \$2,857



Bede the Bat

Hello to all my friends at St. Mary's!!

Well, the excitement is growing! It's only a short time until the journey to Red Shirt begins! Are you going? Have you made your contribution? I wish I could go, too, but that's a long flight for a small bat. Not that I'm not brave and strong and daring and adventurous and unafraid of hardships and all those other awful things! (I must be thinking of some other bat!) :) Anyway, I do wish I could go because everyone who has ever made the trip tells such wonderful stories and has had true life-changing experiences.



Since I can't go and I really wanted to be a part of this great adventure, I've decided to do something else. I've made my contribution, but I wanted to offer something that the travelers could take with them, so I've written a Prayer for the ones who are making this splendid journey of faith. Here it is:

Creator of all good and perfect gifts:

Renew our sense of mission.

Encourage our efforts in your Name.

Deliver us from all thoughts of weariness..

Send your angels to guide us.

Help us to heal the good land and its great people.

Inspire us to give our best.

Repair old wounds and make us one.

Teach us to love, to heal, to renew and to repair.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

If you look to the left of each petition, you will see that it spells "Red Shirt". I ask that you keep those on this journey in your thoughts and prayers until we see them again.

See you next time. Love and blessings from me, Bede, St. Mary's Bat in the Belfry

Now You Can Advertise in “The Bells”

Guidelines for Advertising in “The Bells”

Advertising is for St. Mary’s Community (i.e., Personal or Classified Ads submitted by a member of St. Mary’s Congregation).

Location: Ads to be placed on the inside back page, reserve about 1/2 page for “Community Classifieds” or some such name (to be determined by The Bells Editor).

Section to be annotated with an appropriate disclaimer at the bottom of the page, such as “Paid Advertisements Provided by Your Saint Mary’s Community”.

Cost to be reasonable. Rate is \$10/mo, \$25/3 mo for a Business Card size (3.5” wide by 2” high) advertisement.

Saint Mary’s youth advertising (babysitting, yard cleanup, window washing,) at ½ price. “Youth” to be defined as Members of St. Mary’s, less than 18 yrs of age.

Payments are to be made to St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, and go into the general fund. Target is to offset production costs (stamps, paper, etc.), but not to become another designated fund. FYI, costs of The Bells, including postage, copying, etc., is estimated at about \$100/month.

Payment in full is due prior to the advertisement running, and is to be submitted with the ad on or before the 15th of the month.

Art and/or Text to be provided to The Bells editor in “Camera Ready” form, either electronic, or ready to be scanned, understanding that the advertisement will be printed in Black & White (not Color).

This is a payment for a service, and as such, is not tax deductible. St. Mary’s will not include payment for advertising in the Member’s Contributions calculations.

Advertising is limited to Church Membership or Member Affiliated Businesses, not outside businesses.

Ads must be in good taste, as deemed by The Bells editorial staff. Any questionable submission to be 1) resolved with the submitter, or failing resolution, 2) resolved with the Wardens.

Outreach: Filling the Backpacks

Back to school seems so far off to me, as I am writing this one week after schools closed for summer vacation. Nevertheless, the Outreach Committee will start to collect school supplies to fill backpacks for the needy children in our community on Sunday the 18th of July, and school will start again on Tuesday the 17th of August. This past year there was so much need that we were asked again at mid-year to provide some help to some of our local schools, which we were able to do thanks to the generous donations all of you give to St. Mary's throughout the year.

The backpacks are purchased out of the General Fund at St. Mary's, and we ask the congregation to buy the smaller items to fill them. Last year we filled 76 backpacks, and this year we are told the need is even greater. Our goal will be 75 to 80. There will be a container in the Narthex from July 18 until Sunday August 15th. Please watch for the special sales that start right after the 4th of July. If you would prefer for the Outreach Committee to do the purchasing, make a cash donation or write a check to St. Mary's with "backpacks" noted in the memo portion of your check. We will be happy to do the shopping for you.

Thanks so much for considering this worthwhile project that will help a child go back to school with everything he or she will need to start the year.

**St. Mary's on
Facebook**

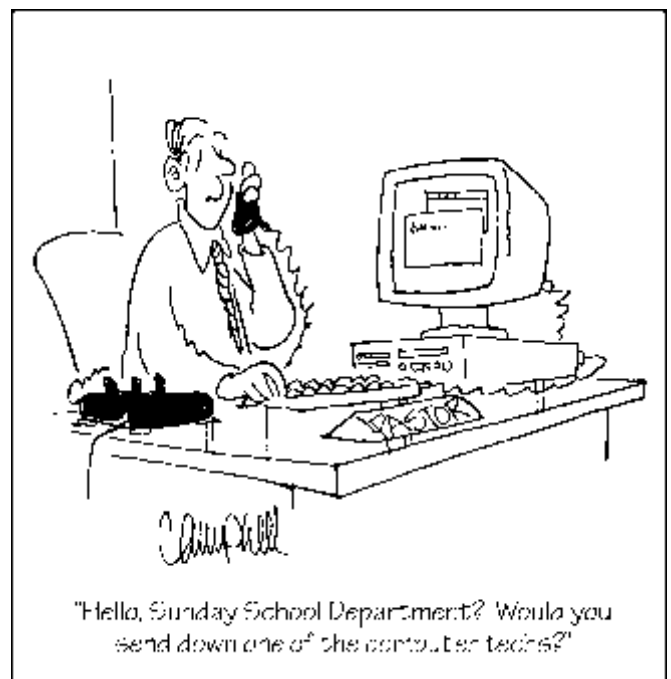


Did you know St. Mary's has a Facebook group? You can find us by following the Facebook link on the St. Mary's web page (www.stmaryslompoc.org).

Supplies List:

- **12 #2 pencils**
- **12 pens (black or blue ink)**
- **Pencil sharpener (shavings held in the case)**
- **Pencil bag (for 3 ring binder) or pencil box**
- **Eraser**
- **Box of crayons**
- **Colored pencils**
- **Colored washable markers**
- **3 ring viewbinder (2")**
- **3 hole notebook paper**
- **Insertable tab dividers**
- **Spiral notebooks**
- **Small calculator (preferably solar)**
- **Scissors**
- **Ruler**
- **Toothbrush**

Outreach Committee



Save the Date



**St. Mary's Annual Picnic
will be on
St. Mary's Day, August 15th
at
River Park - Kiwanis Area
from
10^{AM} - 1^{PM}**

**Gather for song, games,
food and Church. We
will worship in the park
and celebrate the Feast
Day of our namesake,
St. Mary.**

See you all there!

**Church
Picnic**



Prayers of the People

We ask that you hold these persons in your Daily Prayers.

Lord, open our hearts to Your perfect will and to Your loving prayerful nature; that we can faithfully interceded on behalf of those we bring to You now in prayer:

Delores TwoBulls, Catherine Gibson, N. Joyce Crenshaw, Ron & Uini Davis, Stan & Jessie Sheldon, Sheila Holley, Lee and Isla Hill.

AMEN+

Please Note:

Prayers of the People will be updated monthly. If you would like to add or continue a name to the POP, please fill out a Pink Prayer Request slip or Pew card, submit via our website www.stmaryslompoc.org, call any of our Prayer Tree members, or email Stephanie Bastian at jeffnsteph95@msn.com. Thank you!

“Whenever two of you on earth agree in prayer, it will be done by My Father in Heaven.” Matthew 18:19



Reminder—The Bells will be on holiday in the month of August.

Your next issue will be in your mailbox around the 1st of September.

It will be all about Christian Formation.

Have a good Summer!



The Bells of Saint Mary's

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Next Issue:



Inside this issue:

Fr. Michael:	1
The Red Shirt Project Symbol:	3
Red Shirt Testimonials:	4
Vestry Speaks	6
July & August Birthdays	7
Financial Statement:	8
July & August Work Party:	8
Calendar:	9
Bede the Bat:	10
Advertising in "The Bells"	11
Outreach - Backpacks	12
Save The Date	13
Prayers of the People:	14



***"To serve God and all
people, wherever they are
in their journey of faith."***

Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Mon - Fri 10 AM - 4 PM

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