

Behind the Scenes

It has been said on more than one occasion that our parish could not operate without the assistance of our dedicated volunteers; they are indeed the lifeblood of our faith community. There are a number of ministries that provide services behind the scenes. This article will periodically highlight these important ministries that allow our church to be an attractive and welcoming setting for people to encounter Christ.

If you are of a certain age, you may remember your church being staffed by a sexton who was responsible for the care and upkeep of the church property. One might say that John Gignac assists in that role for Saint Bede Catholic Church. More than five years ago John was asked by then staff member, Roseanne Black, to neatly place the worship aids in the back of the hymnals. (The worship aids underwritten by parishioner Bob Kiley allow our parishioners to easily participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.) John quietly continues in that role of straightening the worship aids each week as a memorial tribute to his friendship with Roseanne Black. John's wife, Joanne is also involved behind the scenes. Each week she meets with the Saint Bede Knitting Group who provides handmade hats, sweaters, scarves, mittens, lap robes, and blankets for needy recipients. John and Joanne are also active with the Young at Heart.

John and Joanne consider Saint Bede Catholic Church as members of their 'family' and have included the parish in their estate plans. They are charter members of The 1820 Circle. *'God has been good to me and He helped me provide for my wife, Joanne, and my children. I have been blessed with a fabulous wife and partner, and I continue to enjoy good health that enables me to make the most of each day. I always considered leaving money to the church at my death.'*



If you'd like to learn more about The 1820 Circle contact development director, Beatrice T. Sanford, OFS, MA at 757-603-6989 ext. 2315 or email bsanford@bedeva.org You can learn more about the many parish life groups and ministries by visiting our website <http://www.bedeva.org/85>