



Holy Apostles
CATHOLIC PARISH AND SCHOOL

2024-2025 **Pastoral Report**

Love God. Love Others.
Transform Our World

October 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With joy and deep gratitude, I share with you our Annual Pastoral Report for the fiscal year July 2024 through June 2025. This past year has been a powerful reminder of what God can do when we live our mission: to **Love God, Love Others, and Transform Our World**. Our parish vision—to **invite every person who enters our doors to encounter Christ, fall in love with Him, and go forth to share His love with the world**—is bearing fruit in visible and inspiring ways. Through our **Children and Family Discipleship, Youth Discipleship, and Adult Discipleship programs**, we have witnessed hearts touched, lives changed, and faith renewed.



Your generosity has made this possible. Because of your stewardship, we continue to provide a strong Catholic school education for our families and offer tuition assistance to those in need. Your support of our parish campaign also enabled us to purchase the neighboring properties, ensuring space for future growth and ministry. While rising costs have affected us all, your faithfulness has allowed us to complete necessary maintenance projects—such as replacing our aging heating systems—and even enhance parish safety through a security grant, which we successfully implemented.

Hospitality is our strength, and **welcoming** is our way of life—this is what makes us the Body of Christ here at Holy Apostles. Together, as disciples of our Lord, we will continue to open wide the doors of our parish and invite everyone to encounter the Lord, to fall in love with Him, and to share that love with the world around us.

I am filled with joy to be your pastor and a fellow disciple of Jesus Christ. I pray that, in the year ahead, we will deepen our encounter with the Lord so that, transformed by His love, we may continue to transform our world.

With gratitude and prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arul'.

Fr. Arul Ponnaiyan



The Sunday Experience Ministry

The Sunday Experience Ministry at Holy Apostles Parish plays a vital role in creating a welcoming, prayerful, and spiritually enriching environment for all who gather to celebrate the Eucharist. This ministry is a dynamic collaboration of dedicated volunteers whose service enhances every aspect of the Sunday liturgy, from hospitality and music to the sacred responsibilities at the altar.

Ministry Breakdown:

Art & Environment 36 ministers

Greeters 46 ministers

Ushers 72 ministers

Hospitality Volunteers 33 ministers

Cantors 30 ministers

Adult Choir 40 ministers

Contemporary Music Ministers 20 ministers

Servers 48 ministers

Sacristans 19 ministers

Eucharistic Ministers 84 ministers

Lectors 44 ministers

Total 361 ministers



Each of these roles contributes uniquely to the Sunday liturgy:

- Art & Environment enhances our worship space for the various liturgical seasons, i.e., Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time.
- Greeters create the first impression of warmth and welcome as parishioners and visitors arrive.
- Ushers assist with seating, collections, and flow, ensuring a smooth and organized worship environment.
- Hospitality Volunteers support the community through fellowship and service, often extending the liturgical experience beyond Mass.
- Cantors, the Adult Choir, and Contemporary Music Ministers provide rich, prayerful music that uplifts and unifies the congregation.
- Servers assist the clergy during the liturgy, helping to maintain the reverence and order of the celebration.
- Sacristans work behind the scenes to prepare sacred vessels, vestments, and liturgical elements.
- Eucharistic Ministers share the Body and Blood of Christ, central to our communal worship.
- Lectors proclaim the Word of God with clarity and faith, anchoring the liturgy in Scripture.

The Sunday Experience Ministry is a cornerstone of the spiritual life at Holy Apostles Parish. With 361 ministers working in harmony, and up to 50 volunteers serving at a single liturgy, this ministry embodies a spirit of hospitality, reverence, and joyful service. Their collective efforts ensure that each liturgical celebration is a true encounter with Christ and a reflection of the parish's mission to worship with devotion and welcome all with love.



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Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care at Holy Apostles embraces a wide range of services designed to nurture the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of our faith community. Central to our mission are the sacraments, spiritual guidance, community outreach, and hospital and home visits. These efforts are rooted in compassion and a deep commitment to building a supportive, faith-filled community where every person can grow spiritually and feel cared for.

Our parish is blessed with a variety of ministries dedicated to extending prayer, care, and support, including the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Elizabeth Ministry, Meal Train Ministry, Prayer Network, Communion to the Homebound, Visitation Ministry, and many more. These ministries serve as vital expressions of Christ's love in action. To learn more, please visit our website: www.hanb.org/pastoralcare

Two significant events this past year were My Final Wishes (August 27, 2024) and Companions for Care Resources (September 18, 2024). For the first time, these events were offered to both our parishioners and the broader New Berlin community. They provided valuable information from local organizations on topics such as funeral pre-planning, hospice and palliative care, estate planning, caregiving, aging-in-place resources, and more. These gatherings reflected our parish's commitment to walking with individuals and families as they navigate some of life's most important decisions.

Additionally, in June 2024, we introduced a Prayer List in our parish bulletin. This new initiative has created a meaningful opportunity for the faith community to offer prayers and extend personal support to those in need. Whether through prayer, presence, or practical help, our community continues to be a source of grace and compassion for one another.



*“Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble...”
– 2 Corinthians 1:4*



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Service

As a community, Holy Apostles parish shows Love God. Love Others. Transform Our World through our love for others through our human concerns ministries to our parishioners, local communities, throughout Wisconsin, and the world. The Parish supports these local ongoing outreach efforts: New Berlin Food Pantry, MacCanon Brown, and we also partner with St. Vincent de Paul. Human Concerns at Holy Apostles encompasses a range of ministries aimed at nurturing the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of the faith community. Our numerous ministries provide prayers, care, and support for all stages of life, reaching out to the Last, the Lost, the Least, and the Lonely.

One way Holy Apostles helps support international communities is through our Lenten Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) Food packing event. During Lent, we collected donations and packed food for those around the world that do not have enough to eat. In partnership with CCO, we planned to raise \$16,500 and pack 50,000 meals. We were able to pack 53,594 meals and we raised just over \$27,000 because of the parish's tremendous generosity! Over 250 people gathered in the gym on March 23rd and packed 53,594 meals. The young and the old helped in so many different ways, from filling bags with flavor packets, to refilling supplies, scooping rice, beans, veggies and soy into bags.

Our international donations help support our sister parish, La Sagrada Familia in Sabana Yegua, Dominican Republic. Holy Apostles has been a sister parish of La Sagrada Familia for over 10 years, with a special focus on outreach to the Haitian population. Our parishioners travel yearly to Sabana Yegua to show our support and build relationships with the many people we serve. Our ministry has been able to offer medical and dental clinics for the community which have been especially well received in areas without access to local healthcare services. Specifically, Holy Apostles helped and supported the community by funding and providing a new ultrasound machine for the health clinic run by La Sagrada Familia. The team also gave medical support by examining and treating 365 Haitian patients during their three-day visit providing free medications during the clinic. A big thank you to Holy Apostles' parishioners who were able to provide toiletry bags to all the patients.



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Parish School



Holy Apostles is a 3K-8th grade Catholic school proudly serving New Berlin and surrounding communities since 1893. The students and staff of Holy Apostles School are on a journey to build disciples together. We offer a rigorous curriculum, along with daily opportunities for faith-based reflection geared towards motivating students to become their best. Our students spend time growing in faith, service, and academic excellence, all while transforming the world around us. Our school continues to be one of the largest Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese. We enrolled almost 400 3K-8th grade students for the 2024-2025 school year.



235 Families



**11 grades
22 classes
18 average class size**



**90 students-
2024 Volleyball**



**390 Students
Enrolled**



**28 certified
teachers,
6 dedicated support
staff**



**100 students-
24/25 Basketball**



**200 students
participating in a
variety of clubs**



**1st Communicants
28 HA students out of
45 received this Spring**



**60 students-
2025 Track**

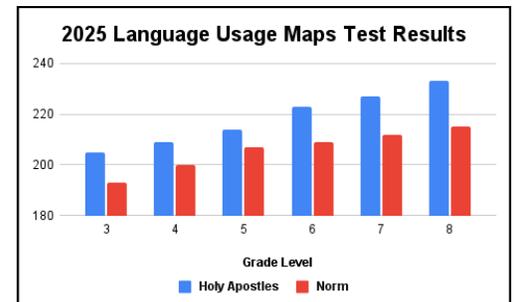
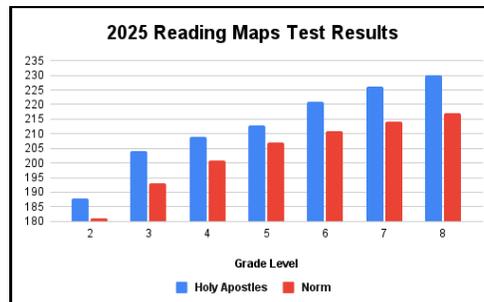
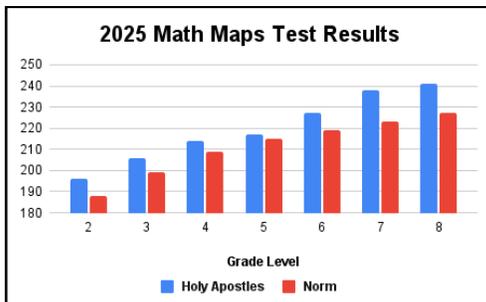
We are honored to be recognized for Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School

Grades K-5th 4 years in a row

Grades 6-8th 7 years in a row

We are a STEM school, integrating Project Lead the Way into our science curriculum to provide opportunities for problems solving, teamwork, and innovative thinking at all levels. We are excited to be one of the schools across the country to be awarded as both a Launch(4K-5th) and Gateway (6th-8th) distinguished school for our implementation of our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curriculum.

Spring MAPS report 2025



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Youth Discipleship

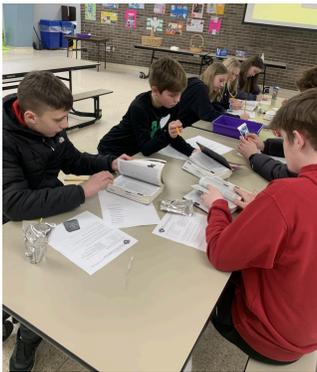
Holy Apostles Youth Discipleship program (grades 6-12) continues to grow in faith, hope, service, and numbers. The Youth Discipleship program continues to give youth of all ages opportunities to discover who Jesus is, learn how to develop their faith, to grow in community, and how to develop and nurture their relationship with God and others through the Habits of Discipleship and service.

The Middle School program includes forty-four 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Middle School Youth nights include social time, prayer, scripture, small group discussions, activities, service, and prayer experiences. Together we explore our faith and how it applies to Middle School Youth. The Youth discuss topics of today and discover how to navigate their world as a disciple of Christ through a rotating curriculum that includes the Bible, the Church, Prayer, and Catholic Social Teaching. Each session consists of a large group portion (teaching) and a small group portion (discussion / activities). The small group discussions and activities are led by young adults and parent volunteer facilitators with a group of seven or eight of the teens of the same grade level.

The High School Youth Discipleship program includes thirty-two 9th graders who are in their first year of Confirmation Prep. The High School Youth program also includes forty-three 10th graders who will be confirmed in October of 2025. All of our Youth are guided through the practice of our faith and develop Habits of Discipleship. We grow in community through prayer, scripture, small and large group discussions, speakers, and service. A special event for our Confirmation Candidates is the yearly Confirmation Retreat. This year the retreat took place at the Catholic Ecology Center. During the retreat they participated in a variety of activities that revolved around the theme of "Nurturing their relationship with God, others, and nature." 11th and 12th graders who have been confirmed were invited to continue their faith journey once a month through small groups discussion, speakers, service, and other planned events.

An important aspect of our Youth Discipleship program is encouraging and inviting all the youth to participate in prayer opportunities as a community. We offer the following: Praise and Worship Adoration followed by fellowship four times a year, Reconciliation, Family Youth Mass, Ash Wednesday Mass and participating in the Stations of the Cross during the Lenten Season.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." -1 Timothy 4:12



Child & Family Discipleship

“Go and Make Disciples” – Our Mission at Holy Apostles
Jesus gave the Church a clear mission: “Go and make disciples of all nations.”

At Holy Apostles, this mission shapes everything we do—especially within our children, family, and youth discipleship programs.

We are committed to supporting families as they build a strong spiritual foundation at home, helping them grow together in faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus and one another.

Early Childhood: SONshine Kids (3K–5K):

Discipleship begins early through SONshine Kids, a joyful and developmentally appropriate program for our youngest learners. Children explore the foundational teachings of our Catholic faith through Bible stories, music, movement, and hands-on activities—all designed to nurture a lasting love for Jesus. 13 children participated for the first time this year in SONshine Kids.

Elementary: Family Discipleship (Grades 1–5):

Family Discipleship invites families with children in grades 1–5 to grow in faith—together. Each session offers engaging, interactive experiences that promote faith formation through collaboration, shared learning, and community building.

Families strengthen both their spiritual lives and their bonds with one another through meaningful, Christ-centered activities. 200 parents and children participated in Family Discipleship this year.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a week-long summer program designed to create a positive, engaging, and faith-filled environment where children can explore the Bible, grow in their relationship with Jesus, and build lasting friendships within our church community. Over 100 children and 50 youth and adult volunteers participated in VBS this year!



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Adult Discipleship

Over the past few years, we have been blessed to be led by our Holy Father, the late Pope Francis, whose witness reshaped the Church into one that is more compassionate, inclusive, and centered on missionary discipleship. At Holy Apostles, our Adult Discipleship Ministry has embraced his teaching, especially through *The Joy of the Gospel* and *Laudato Si'*, learning to be a parish that is like a "field hospital"—healing wounds and ministering to the needs of the least of our brothers and sisters.

We also give thanks to God for our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, a true missionary pope who inspires us to go out and share the Good News with the world, and for our new Archbishop, Jeffrey Grob, who shepherds us with wisdom and pastoral care.

We are especially grateful for all who have participated in our Adult Discipleship Ministries: Encounter Christ Discipleship Small Group, John 10:10 Discipleship Group, Women of Faith Group, Care for Creation Ministry, Sons of the Father Group, Right to Life Ministry, Catholic Life Small Group and Emmaus 90 Group.

We also embraced married couples to grow in faith together through our Alpha marriage enrichment course. Each of these groups have continued to walk together in faith, deepening their relationship with the Lord and helping our parish become a true community of missionary disciples.



Technology 2024-2025

Holy Apostles has made significant improvements to technology hardware for the Parish and School over the last year, 2024-2025. These upgrades were funded by the 2024 Auction Fund-a-Need which raised \$85,914 to support these efforts:

- Server Upgrade for entire technology infrastructure, 2025-2026
- Various network equipment was implemented in 2024-2025
- Student laptops for 2024-2025 year purchased
- Lofy Hall upgraded AV Cart for 2025-2026
- Student laptops for 2025-2026 year purchased
- New laptops purchased for our Teachers, 2025-2026

We thank all who donated to this cause.



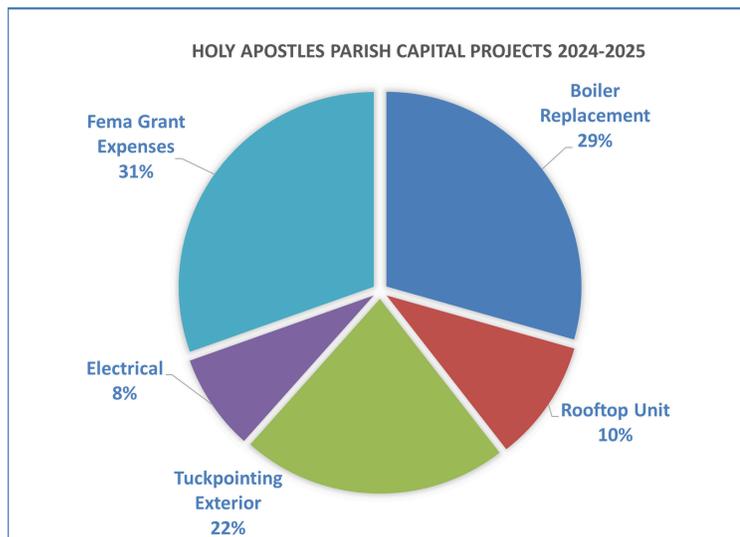
Building & Grounds & Cemetery

Holy Apostles Building & Grounds is comprised of several groups. This includes the Building and Grounds Ministry, Landscape Ministry, Helping Hands Ministry, and the Cemetery. The Building and Grounds Ministry advises and assists on projects to help maintain the facility and grounds. The Landscape Ministry is responsible for maintaining the flower beds around the church, making the grounds look beautiful. The Helping Hands group is a group of parishioners that help with projects around the campus.

This year has been a busy year. We completed several projects as part of a FEMA safety grant that we received. These projects include installing additional security cameras on the exterior and interior of the facility, upgrading door locks to electronic fob reads, and improvements to the exterior lighting around the grounds.

Capital projects totaling \$147,867 include:

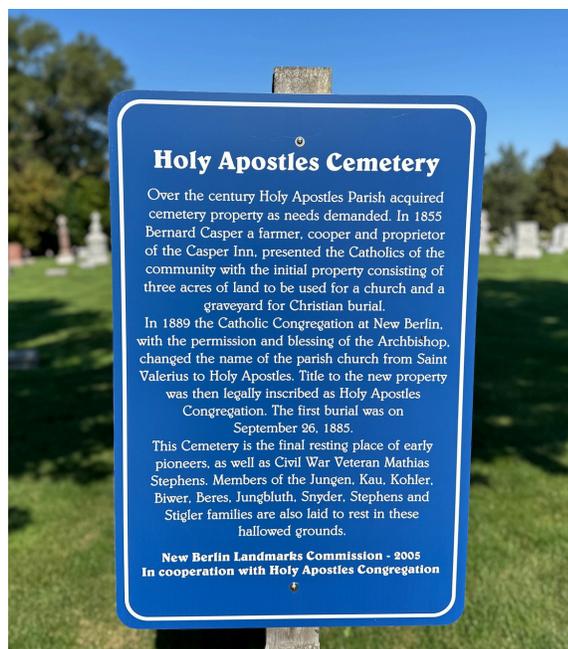
- Tuck pointing (masonry repairs) around the school building
- Replacement of a roof top unit that heats and cools part of the school
- Replacement of one of three boilers that heat the school and church
- Installation of a new AED, thanks to a generous donor
- A bottle filler to the bubbler in Lofy Hall



This year, we also had a great group help with fall and spring landscape clean up as well as laying mulch in the spring.

In the cemetery, we had a project to replace and fix the retaining walls, which was a great improvement from the old ones. Over the last year, we had a total of 44 burials and sold 44 grave sites.

Thank you to the volunteers of the Building & Grounds, Landscape, & Helping Hands Ministries. Without you many of these projects would not have been possible. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!



Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Holy Apostles is a community blessed with many people who give so generously of their time, talent and treasure. Because of your generous stewardship, we are able to do the work that we are called to as Christians through outreach, service, education and the ministry programs offered here.

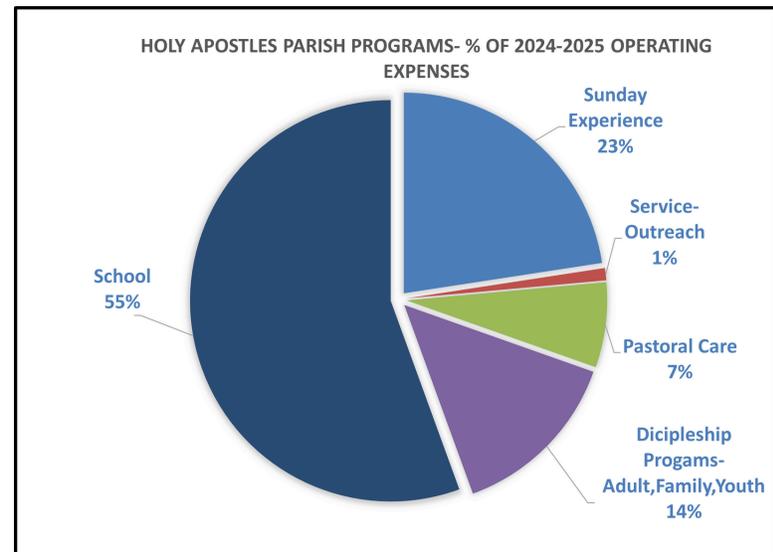
This year, while ending in a slight deficit, we are grateful for all of these gifts as we look forward to advancing the mission here at Holy Apostles Parish and School.



CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY APOSTLES Statement of Receipts and Disbursements Year to Date June 30, 2025

Holy Apostles operating expenses for 2024-2025 Supported the following ministry programs:

General Fund	Fiscal 2025	Budget 2025
RECEIPTS		
Weekly Envelope/Stewardship	\$ 1,886,869	\$ 1,898,000
Offertory	\$ 100,384	\$ 91,000
Memorial Donations	\$ 15,234	\$ 17,000
School Education Fund	\$ 17,488	\$ -
Other Contributions	\$ 67,198	\$ 58,300
Tuition	\$ 1,825,568	\$ 1,891,769
Rentals	\$ 16,595	\$ 18,500
Other Revenues	\$ 377,565	\$ 276,980
Fundraising & Activity Events	\$ 135,300	\$ 212,000
Total Income	\$ 4,442,200	\$ 4,463,549
DISBURSEMENTS		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 3,209,038	\$ 3,323,732
Direct Assistance-Outreach	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,350
Supplies & Purchased Services	\$ 401,278	\$ 391,420
Technology	\$ 35,576	\$ 81,268
Building & Grounds Expenses	\$ 408,349	\$ 376,933
Capital Expenses	\$ 147,867	\$ -
Other Expenses	\$ 246,755	\$ 257,200
CMH Assessment	\$ 16,282	\$ 18,000
Total Disbursements	\$ 4,475,145	\$ 4,459,903
Net Operating Income	\$ (32,945)	\$ 3,646



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

-1 Peter 4:10



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Building Campaign

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Transforming Our Future Capital Campaign Update

The Transforming Our Future Capital Campaign came to a close at the end of 2024. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity! Through your gifts to the campaign, we have been blessed with the Welcome Center, a beautiful and active gathering, office and meeting space, and have acquired the two neighboring properties to the east of the church.

The next step with the newly acquired adjacent properties began in September 2025 to demolish the two buildings. After the removal of the buildings, the grounds will become a green space for future use.

We have experienced the vision come to life and many blessings with our Welcome Center in making connections with Christ and others in our community. The acquisition of the new properties creates opportunities for future growth and service, to continue our mission as a faith community in forming disciples.

Together, let's pray for patience and guidance for continued focus on a long-term vision for the use of the land. Being good stewards of our gifts, along with comprehensive planning and thoughtful decisions will be required as we address our current needs and prepare for the generations that we pray will follow us.

Please note we prayerfully considered a few proposals from parishioners on how the space might serve those in need before we took steps toward demolition of these buildings. One suggestion was to renovate the insurance building to provide temporary housing for a struggling family until they found financial stability, or to welcome a refugee family until they could secure a permanent home. These were inspiring ideas, and we carefully explored these possibilities. However, after looking closely, significant safety concerns due to the proximity of our school, along with ongoing maintenance responsibilities, liability, and insurance issues, made these options unfeasible. In the end, we made the decision to move forward with demolition as soon as possible, especially as the cost of demolition continues to rise.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship and for showing the love that you have for Holy Apostles and the desire to see our parish continue to grow and prosper. Let us continue to support one another in prayer and action, confident that together we are building toward God's kingdom here in New Berlin.

With prayers,



Fr. Arul Ponnaiyan

