

Hi

The ranks were slim this morning in church! Between the beginning of Winter Break and the zero degrees temperature the usual crowd was a bit slim.

Today we introduce Simeon Gallagher at all the services. He will be leading our annual Mission this year. He's been here before and has an impressive following in the parish and beyond. I am glad to finally hear him after 30 years! We are hoping for a good turnout for the Mission at 10am and 7pm Monday - Thursday.

If you are on the fence about coming, please do give him a try. My conversations with him thus far lead me to think we are in for a treat.

Do stay warm and enjoy the week! Don't forget our first big party in the New Great Hall on Saturday!

And of course, pray that we can have peace in our world.

Peace!

Ed

2/16/03 Courier - Columbarium - Retreat

February is Catholic Press Month in our country and our local Catholic Newspaper the Catholic Courier is in the midst of improvements and innovations. The 1167 households in our parish who receive the Courier have no doubt noticed this. Our monthly packet contains an envelope for contributions that help offset the cost of the Courier. Thanks to those who regularly use this envelope, it really helps offset the cost to the parish. So far this year we have received contributions from 77 households. Last year 223 envelope holders helped subsidize the cost. The Catholic Courier is an educational tool which keeps us informed about the news around the diocese and gives a Catholic insight on world events. Each week Bishop Clark writes a personal reflection about the diocese and our journey in faith together. Please do your best to read the Courier each week when it comes to your mailbox. If you are not receiving it and wish to, please call our office and let us know.

We are blessed with the vision of Fr. Norris who, over twenty years ago, included a beautiful Columbarium when our present church building was constructed. In our Columbarium we reverently place the ashes of those who have been cremated upon death until that day when the Lord remakes our bodies like His own in glory. For many years Millie Leary oversaw the disposition of cremains and the placement of markers on the niches. Millie retired from our staff a few months back and Cathy Warner has recently taken over Millie's responsibilities. Recently Cathy and I were talking about the beauty of the Columbarium and how we need to establish some guidelines to ensure that the simplicity of the room is maintained while at the same time respecting people's need to grieve their beloved dead. Elsewhere in the bulletin you will find some new guidelines which we hope will help keep this beautiful space at its elegant simplicity and quiet beauty. Thank you to Cathy for her love and dedication to our community through this ongoing good stewardship.

With Fr. Bill on several weeks vacation (he is retired you know!), we have added more Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion Services. Our staff has been presiding at these since Msgr. Cocuzzi left us and now we have added several other parishioners to the list of those who lead us in this way. Please welcome: Bonnie Bergen, Sr. Anne DePores, Duncan "Monty" Montgomery, Jim Robinson, and Stephanie Batterman to this new ministry. We will be having a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion Services on Saturday

mornings at 9:00 until Fr Bill returns. Thanks to our fellow parishioners for accepting this call to serve in this way.

Please consider being part of our 1st Dinner Dance in our new Great Hall. Tom Nichols and Amy Fernaays have organized a grand Mardi Gras party on Saturday March 1. I can hardly wait to try out the dance floor. Today we will be selling tickets in the Parish Living Room after all the Masses. They are also available at the Parish Office during the week. The price, \$20, includes the full meal, soda, beer and all the music that you can dance to until 11:00pm. I hope this will be the first of many such celebrations in the future.

Have a good week!

Ed

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