

BY THE WAY . . .

- **Revisiting the Jubilee Garden** – One of the results of the COVID-19 restrictions has been a renewed appreciation of the Jubilee Garden. This plot of “no man’s land” between the church and the school became the focus of attention for Monsignor George Hundt and a committee who conceived the development of a commemorative/meditative garden space in celebration of the Parish’s 100th anniversary in 2008. Monsignor Hundt dedicated the Jubilee Garden before a large crowd on September 14, 2008. The garden has continued to grow over the years, as commemorative “pavers” have been added in honor of living persons or in memory of deceased loved ones. Today, the Garden hosts over 600 memorials – with room for many more for the future.

Since the enforced restrictions of the COVID-19 lockdown, I have noticed the Garden taking on a function in lieu of the availability of the church itself:

- people, who might ordinarily have stopped in church stop by the Garden all during the day to say a prayer;
- the men’s prayer group meets in the Garden for the Rosary;
- the weekday Mass ladies are using the Garden for Rosary and “coffee klatsch” almost daily;
- every Saturday afternoon since June, the Jubilee Garden has been in use as the venue for Saturday Confessions;
- this past Tuesday, many of the Confirmation families were stopping in the garden for a photo opportunity with Saint Anthony.

Like so many other situations in COVID-19, the Jubilee Garden has provided a comfortable space to accommodate people of faith in the unusual times we find ourselves in. Stop by, and see if it is a good space for you as well.

- **2020 Diocesan Ministries Appeal** – The 2020 Diocesan Ministries appeal (formerly called the Bishop’s annual Appeal) is officially kicking off this weekend. The theme of this year’s Appeal is “Love Thy Neighbor.” It is a vivid reminder, especially as we all face the COVID pandemic together, that what we do for our neighbors in need, we do for Christ himself. Please support this important cause that helps so many of our brothers and sisters in our Diocese.

The Diocesan Ministries Appeal supports the work of our Catholic Charities, priests’ extraordinary health needs as well as Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests retirement residence, urban elementary schools and seminarian education. These are all important ministries that touch many lives, and your participation makes this assistance possible. You can give with confidence, knowing that the funds from the Diocesan Ministries Appeal are used solely for the causes described in the campaign materials. They are used for no other purpose. For your convenience, you can support the Diocesan Ministries Appeal by making an on-line gift. Simply go to www.2020appeal.org and follow the user-friendly instructions.

- **Confirmation 2020** – This past Tuesday Bishop Kevin Sweeney came to Saint Anthony’s for the first time to celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. In the midst of all the COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing protocols, we were not able to celebrate the Sacrament quite the way we usually do. For example, based on the restrictions we had to divide the class in half, and have two celebrations (at 6:00 and 8:00 P.M.) and we were not able to have any of the sponsors present in church - the parents had to stand in as proxies for the sponsors. Almost all of the parents were very cooperative in this effort, and while it was a long night, it was still a beautiful celebration of the Sacrament.

The quality of Tuesday’s Confirmation rested on the generosity of a whole group of people who were willing to stay for five hours through the entire “double header” that night, and I wanted to be sure that I thanked all of them for their help:

Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney, D.D.
Father Stephen Prisk - Bishop’s Secretary and M.C.
Father Sylwester Pierzak – Parochial Vicar
Deacon Ronnie Gonzalez
Carlos Penagos - Seminarian
Michael Riedel - Music Director
Barbara Ritolo and Joseph Hall - Cantors
Therese Grolly - Confirmation Coordinator
Craig Jandoli - Confirmation Assistant
Ryan McGovern - Live Stream Technician
Bruce Bennett - Photographer
Cathy Clyne and Mary Ann Martone - Parish Staff

Thank you one and all!

- Tuesday, September 29 is the **Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel**, the patron saint of soldiers and sailors, policemen, and the sick. For many years, after every Sunday Low (without music) Mass, the congregation prayed together the following prayer to Saint Michael.

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us In battle;
be our protection against the wiles and wickedness of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou, O prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits,
who prowl through the world, seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.*

God bless you all,

Father Ray