

BY THE WAY . . .

- This Thursday begins the month of October, which traditionally and devotionally is called the **Month of the Holy Rosary** (the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary is October 7). If the Rosary is not part of your regular prayer life, this month might be a time to consider it as a possibility for prayer. It has a number of advantages to recommend it:

- In praying the Rosary, we “hold hands” with the Blessed Virgin Mary;
- The Rosary, although Marian, is centered on Christ through the mysteries;
- It requires no books, or even “a rosary” but can be prayed anywhere under many circumstances;
- the four sets of mysteries, give it a variety in its meditative format;
- the repetitiveness of the prayers give it an almost “mantra” undertone that allows the mysteries to be approached;
- the structure of the decades and mysteries gives the Rosary a set duration of time;
- in praying the Rosary, there are aspects of many other prayer forms including the Liturgy of the Hours, Lectio Divina, the Psalms, and Centering Prayer, all of which are recast for a lay person in the Rosary.

There are plenty of causes right now which recommend themselves to our prayer – the COVID-19 pandemic, urban unrest, the presidential elections, the selection of a new Supreme Court justice. This may be a good time to join with millions of others in praying the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- New FOR 2020! In addition to its new name, the **Diocesan Ministries Appeal** (formerly the *Bishop’s Annual Appeal*) also is offering a new giving option for the 2020 Appeal. In addition to considering a one-time gift or a pledge payable over five months, parishioners now have the option of making a continuous monthly gift where your gift would repeat each month and continue from year-to-year. This is a wonderful way to continue your support year-round. You are also able to easily adjust or discontinue your monthly gift at any time you choose. For more information please call the diocesan Development Office at 973-777-8818, ext. 218. However you chose to make your gift to the 2020 Diocesan Ministries appeal, know that your generosity is a blessing to the people we serve. May God bless you for your support!

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.

- Next Sunday, in addition to being the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, is also the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the environment. The traditional **Blessing of Pets** will take place at 1:30 P.M. next Sunday in the parking lot behind the rectory.

- As the weather begins to change, we may have to also change the venue for the **Sacrament of Penance**. If the weather is nice on Saturday afternoon, we will continue to use the Jubilee Garden. If not, you can find the priest at the Sacred Heart Shrine in the church.

- Wednesday, October 14 will mark the **Opening of the 2021 Book for Mass Intentions**. All requests for intentions **must be mailed in** using the form in this bulletin. No intentions will be accepted in person or over the phone.
- Beginning with this Sunday, the **Parish Bulletin** will be available in a print copy at the doors of the church. The bulletin has been available only on-line since last March.
- October 2 is the Feast of the **Guardian Angels**. The following is a prayer to the Guardian Angels written by Saint Therese of Lisieux.

*My holy Guardian Angel, cover me with your wing.
With your fire light the road that I am taking.
Come direct my steps . . . help me, I call upon you,
Just for today.*

*Lord, I want to see you without veils, without clouds,
But still exalted, far from you, I languish.
May your loveable face not be hidden from me,
Just for today.*

*Soon I'll fly to speak your praises
When the day without sunset will dawn on my soul,
Then I'll sing on the Angels' lyre.
The Eternal Today.*

God bless you all,

Father Ray