

BY THE WAY . . .

- Ordinarily in the month of October we are happy to welcome the members of the **Hawthorne Fire Department** who come to one of our Sunday Masses as a group. Even though we are unable to do that this year because of Covid 19, we will pray for them this weekend and I am happy to ask God's blessing on them and thank them as they perform their essential task for the safety of our whole community.

- Monday, November 2 is **All Souls Day**, the day when the Church traditionally prays for all the faithful departed. As always, if you write the names of your beloved dead on the envelope in your envelope packet, the names will be included on the altar during the nine-day Novena for the Faithful Departed offered on the first days of November.

In addition to the 7:30 A.M. Mass on All Souls Day, there will also be a **7:00 P.M. Mass in church**. So many of our brothers and sisters did not have a proper Christian burial this year due to the restrictions presented by Covid 19. This All Souls Day Evening Mass will be an opportunity for all of us to come and pray for the eternal repose of their souls. All the names of those who have died since last November 1 will be included in the Liturgy that night.

- Occasionally we run into some confusion about the role and requirements for **sacramental sponsors (godparents)**, so I am happy to include this information once again.

According to Canons 873 and 874 of the Church's current Code of Canon Law:

(873) Only one male or one female sponsor, or one of each sex is to be employed.

(874) To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

- 1) Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents of the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role;*
- 2) Have completed the sixteenth year;*
- 3) Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.*

Baptism and Confirmation are Sacraments of the Church, and in order to sponsor someone for these Sacraments, you have to be a full member of the Church yourself.

- Recently our diocesan Vicar General, Monsignor Mark Condon, offered a wonderful videoconference talk on **Faithful Citizenship** in anticipation of the upcoming national elections as part of the "Special Topics in Theology: Contemporary Issues" series at Assumption College for Sisters in Denville. The talk was covered by the October 15 edition of "The Beacon." Monsignor Condon first learned about "faithful citizenship" as a student at Saint Anthony's School!

- On Sunday, October 11, Bishop Sweeney led several hundred people in a **Rosary Procession** from Saint Paul inside-the-Walls in Madison to the Church of Saint Thomas More in Convent Station. The event was part of a world-wide network of similar processions during the

month of the Holy Rosary. Saint Anthony's was very much present at the event because Bishop Sweeney handed out hundreds of Rosaries to the participants which were hand-crafted by the members of our own **Rosary Makers Group**.

- Thank you to Joe Silvestri and all the volunteers from **The Saint Anthony Feast Committee** who helped to provide such a wonderful gathering for all our parishioners last weekend after the later three Masses on Sunday. Thank you as well to all the vendors – Abma Farm, Baking Grace, Bogey's Hoagies, Goffle Road Poultry, Home Depot, and Leonard Bakery - who so generously donated food for the occasion. The food was good, the weather was beautiful, and the opportunity just to get together was perfect.

- **How likely is that?** In the past month I have met with two bridal couples in preparation for their weddings next July. By coincidence both weddings are scheduled for the same day. When I went to look up their Baptisms, I discovered that both the brides were baptized at the same ceremony in 1993, and now they are getting married on the same day, twenty-seven years later!

- Last week was the feast day of **Saint Teresa of Avila**, the great sixteenth century Spanish Carmelite founder, mystic and doctor of the Church. In the offering from her writings which is posted for the Office of Readings for her feast day, the following is written by the saint:

What more do we desire from such a good friend at our side? Unlike our friends in the world, he will never abandon us when we are troubled or distressed. Blesse is the one who truly loves him and always keep him near. Let us consider the glorious Saint Paul: it seems that no other name fell from his lips than that of Jesus, because the name of Jesus was fixed and embedded in his heart. Once I had come to understand this truth, I carefully considered the lives of some of the saints, the great contemplatives, and found that they took no other path: Francis, Anthony of Padua, Bernard, Catherine of Siena. A person must walk along this path in freedom, placing himself in God's hands.

Even the other saints turned to Saint Anthony!

God bless you all,

Father Ray