

BY THE WAY . . .

- In the quarterly magazine of the **Salesian Sisters**, “Partners in Giving,” Saint Anthony’s School was featured on the cover (www.salesiansisters.org). The photo shows Sister Marisol Guzman, F.M.A. welcoming two students back to Saint Anthony’s as she prepares to take their temperature on the first day of school. The facemasks of Sister Marisol and the two girls, as well as their outfits, are perfectly color-coordinated with the colorful bed of flowers under the school sign right behind them, making for a really beautiful shot.

- The ability to reach out to people in need through our **Diocesan Ministries Appeal** is dependent on the number of faithful parishioners who participate by making a gift. That is why every gift counts! Your support helps bring hope to thousands of people who come to our Catholic agencies each year. It also supports seminarian education, our diocesan priests’ residence, extraordinary health care needs of our priests and our urban elementary schools. In addition, parishes receive half of all funds received over their parish goals, with a total of almost \$713,000 returned to parishes from last year’s appeal – and over \$3.25 million in five years! Please help your neighbors in need and our own parish by making a gift today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2020appeal.org.

- **Early Warning** – Although it is a little early to talk about Christmas, I wanted to post this early in the hopes that people in their planning will try to spread themselves out among the available Masses so that we do not have to turn anyone away.

At the present time we are planning nine Masses over December 24-25. These nine Masses, under current regulations, will provide approximately 1,000 seats for Christmas Mass at about 110 seats per Mass. The schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve, December 24 – Two Masses at 4:00 P.M. (church and gym)
Two Masses at 5:30 P.M. (church and gym)
One Mass at 10:30 P.M. (church)

Christmas Day, December 25 – One Mass at 8:30 A.M. (church)
One Mass at 10:00 A.M. (church)
Two Masses at 12:00 Noon (church and gym)

- The day before Thanksgiving, November 25, is the **86th anniversary** of the Dedication of our parish church by Bishop Thomas J. Walsh of Newark in 1934. After the dedication ceremonies, Bishop Walsh confirmed nearly 300 children.

- **Delaware** is one of our smallest states, both geographically and in population (973,000). By comparison, both California and Texas have three cities each with a larger population than Delaware. When I drive back and forth to Maine each summer, I regularly play the “license plate game.” Delaware is routinely one of the last East-coast states I see on the road, because there just are not all that many of them. But when you do see a Delaware license plate it carries the state’s nickname, “The First State.” The nickname goes back to this time of

the year, 233 years ago in 1787. The thirteen independent states had been loosely governed since 1776 by “The Articles of Confederation,” which provided for a very weak and hamstrung national government. Its shortcomings had prompted the calling of a Constitutional Convention in the summer of 1787, and by September 11, 1787 a new constitution had been drawn up, (We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union . . .) But in order for the new constitution to take effect it required at least nine states to ratify it, and after three months not one had yet done so. Despite its size as the smallest of the thirteen states, Delaware had a supply of men of wisdom, courage, and foresight who were convinced that the new Constitution provided a secure pathway to the future. On December 7, 1787 these men “stepped up to the plate” and became the “first state” to ratify the new Constitution, setting in motion a movement which culminated seven months later on June 17, 1788 when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify and our present Constitution went into effect. (New Jersey followed Delaware’s lead eleven days later on December 18, 1787, the third state to ratify.

Let us pray that Delaware still has a supply of men (and women) of wisdom, courage and foresight because we this past week have elected, for the first time, one of them to lead us as President of the United States. Let us provide our co-religionist, President-elect Biden, (a regular parishioner of St. Joseph-on-the-Brandywine Parish in Wilmington) with the support of our prayers as he begins to tackle some of our difficulties and seeks to lead us into the future.

- This prayer for the president and government was written by Archbishop John Carroll, the first American Catholic bishop in 1791.

*Almighty and eternal God,
You have revealed your glory to all nations.
God of power and might, wisdom and justice,
Through you authority is rightly administered,
Laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed.*

*Assist with your spirit of counsel and fortitude
The President of these United States
That his administration may be conducted in righteousness,
And by eminently useful to your people over whom he presides.
May he encourage due respect for virtue and religion.
May he execute the laws with justice and mercy.
May he seek to restrain crime, vice and immorality.*

*We, likewise, commend to your unbounded mercy
All who dwell in the United States.
Bless us and all people with the peace
Which the world cannot give.*

*We pray to you, who are Lord and God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

God bless you all,

Father Ray