Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday, October 13, was a special day of celebration in the Universal Church when five new saints were canonized in Rome by Pope Francis. Any listing of saints canonized in our time is unique, but the most recent group of individuals was most interesting. John Henry Newman, a nineteenth century British native, convert to Roman Catholicism from Anglicism, intellectual giant in a field of diverse disciplines, named Cardinal by Holy Mother Church, was canonized with four women: Giuseppina Vannini (Italy), Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan (India), Dulce Lopes Pontes (Brazil) and Margerita Bays (Switzerland). Each of the female saints, from her respective culture and time in history, offers a diverse pedigree of saintly traits, but all of them are united by one single-most fact: they loved God and others.

Without stealing any thunder of applause acknowledging the saintly character of all five recent designees, St. John Newman’s contribution to the discipline of philosophical and theological discourse and his fundamental desire to seek the truth about faith and life remains a paramount and very important aspect of how the Catholic Christian faith is lived out in our times. Anyone who has attended a secular college may be familiar with the “Newman Center”. These locations on many campuses world-wide were established under the inspiration of the man recently canonized and whose surname identifies those centers. It was Newman’s desire to create a center in the academic world to foster the Catholic faith and to provide a forum in which faith and reason might dialogue with one another. With the threat of squelching religious freedoms and practices on many secular college campuses today, the work of Newman centers is all the more needed in our country.

As a pastor of souls, I am concerned about our young adults who leave us for their college studies. I remember several years ago when recruiting potential seminary candidates and hearing their accounts about campus life and the struggles they encountered to live a holy and wholesome Christian life in a culture that mocked it. I have been to a number of Newman Centers close to home – St. Thomas More University Parish at Bowling Green State University, Corpus Christi University Parish at University of Toledo, St. Thomas More Newman Center at Ohio State University. There are good things happening at these “Newman Centers”. Many people have maintained, maybe even renewed or really found their Catholic faith at these centers. I hope that our young adults who leave us for college would find their way to the Newman Center on campus.

St. John Henry Newman offered many wise words in the course of his life and ecclesiastical service. One that appears to be a tagline in many conversations and is applicable to a number of life experiences has to with change. Newman claimed that “To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” Whatever it is we change. Newman claimed that “To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” Whatever it is we change in and about ourselves is part of the refining we all encounter with the hope that God’s will is done in us, only to arrive at that perfect union with Him in heaven. St. John, St. Giuseppina, St. Mariam Thresia, St. Dulce Lopes and St. Margerita pray for us!

Monsignor Singler
NOV-DEC LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES will be prepared soon. Please update your Ministry Scheduler Pro Account or contact the Parish Office by tomorrow, Monday, October 21st, with any dates you are not available in November-December.

THANK YOU NOTES, LETTERS and CARDS are being collected in designated boxes located at the entryways of Holy Family and St. Nicholas churches for Jean Forster. Jean has provided 12 years of service as Parish Bookkeeper at our parishes and will be stepping aside from the position. Please join us in thanking Jean for her faithful service with a note or card of gratitude.

UPCOMING HOLYDAY MASS SCHEDULE: Mark your calendars for the upcoming solemn holyday of obligation, the Solemnity of All Saints, on November 1st. A 7:00pm Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, October 31st at Holy Family Church and an 8:00am and 7:00pm Mass will be celebrated at St. Nicholas on November 1st. Plan to attend these celebrations as we commemorate the happy memory of our blessed heroes and heroines in faith.

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH is seeking men and women (school aged or older) to serve as ushers at our church services. We appreciate your consideration in volunteering. Please contact the Parish Office at (419) 876-3481 to be placed on the schedule.

HOLY FAMILY AND ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PRAYER NETWORK is a ministry open to all members. Upon receiving a prayer request, the Parish Office will contact you by your preferred method of communication. Please contact the Parish Office at 419-876-3481 or snhfmcnc@gmail.com with your name, phone number and preference for a text or phone call to join.

BAPTMISAL CLASS: All first-time parents and parents expecting their first child from St. Nicholas and Holy Family are required (Toledo Diocesan Policy) to attend Baptismal Instructions. The next class will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2019 from 9:30am to 11:15am at Holy Family Religious Ed Center in New Cleveland. These classes are held twice a year. The next one will be scheduled in April 2020. Please call the Parish Office (419-876-3481) or Marty Schroeder (419-943-3767) to register, ask questions or for more details and information.

WOMEN’S WELCOME WEEKEND: Do you sense that there must be more to life? Come to the first women’s Welcome weekend November 16 – 17th at St. Nicholas Parish Center! It’s an incredible experience that will help you discover what’s missing in your life and what to do about it. For more information and registration, call or text Beth Steffan at 419-615-5258.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE Campaign: Catholic Charities is hosting this ecumenical 40 Days for Life campaign in Northwest Ohio from September 25 – November 3. To learn more or to sign up for daily prayer intentions, hours of prayers and information on upcoming events visit: www.40daysforlife.com/toledo.

SUPPORT OUR RETIRED PRIESTS: Contribution envelopes for the Perpetuate the Gift Appeal will remain available in the entryways of our parish churches until December 31, 2019. Thank you to all who have and will contribute to the care of our retired diocesan priests.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY is celebrated today, Sunday, October 20. We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call – to bring the Gospel to all! The collection today for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith ensures the work and service of the mission Church, as it supports priests, religious, and lay leaders who offer the Lord’s mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope’s missions. Thank you for your generosity.

RETOUVAILLE is a marriage support ministry dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? The next weekend in our area is October 25 – 27th. For more information visit www.helpourmarriage.com or call 419-481-1116.

DR. RAY GUARENDI will present at Ottoville Immaculate Conception Parish Center Gymnasium on Wednesday, October 30th from 7:00pm – 8:00pm. Dr. Ray will give his presentation “Back to Family” which reveals those characteristics most common to strong families as well as the struggles and difficulties most families face. This event is open to the public. Please contact Immaculate Conception Parish Office at 419-453-3513 with questions or to obtain more information.

ANYONE WILLING to donate blood at the SN/HF Youth Group sponsored Blood Drive tomorrow, Monday, October 21st at St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall from 12 noon until 6:00pm can contact Deb Wehri at the Parish Office to schedule an appointment or you may come as a walk-in. Homemade soup, pie and ice cream will be provided to all potential donors. If you have never donated before, please consider registering. Every donation has the potential of saving three lives.