

## ***The Pastor's Keyboard—Msgr. Richard Huneger***

***25th Sunday of Ordinary Time***

***September 19, 2021***

A number of parishioners wanted to know more about the work of the late **Michael Merzenich**, an Oregonian, whom I mentioned in my September 5 homily. He was long the world leader in breaking new ground in the study of brain "plasticity." My comments related to the "hearing-speaking" connection (by comparison with the miracle Jesus performed for the "deaf and dumb" man who couldn't hear or speak correctly). I recommend to you Norman Doidge MD's book, *The Brain that Changes Itself* (Penguin 2007), Chapter 3, "Redesigning the Brain," pages 45-92, reviewing Merzenich's research, in particular 68ff on dyslexia, and 74ff on autism. If you Google "Fast ForWord free," you'll get some videos and links to his remarkable techniques, to recommend to someone in need of the Fast ForWord type intervention.

In a recent homily I mentioned the "**Woke**" and "**Critical Race Theory**" forces that are spreading in our society, and in schools. Here's an interesting little video that came my way in email later that same day, exploring that very topic, from PraegerUniversity (5 minutes long):

[https://www.praegeru.com/video/what-radical-islam-and-the-woke-have-in-common?utm\\_source=Itetable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=campaign\\_2826109](https://www.praegeru.com/video/what-radical-islam-and-the-woke-have-in-common?utm_source=Itetable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_2826109)

**Marriage Preparation Classes in English**, led by parishioner couples, begin Tuesday, October 12, 6:30pm, in the East Room, for six weeks. Call 503 581-1623 to register. The next series will begin February 15, 2022.

**Interested in becoming Catholic? or looking into the Faith? or Adult Confirmation?** Classes begin Thursday, October 7, 6:30pm, upstairs in the Parish Center, continuing through Easter (Adult Confirmation occurs later, when the Archbishop comes for a regional Confirmation for Adults). Call 503 581-1623 to register.

**Church Changes.** During Covid we installed *ropes* every other pew (for awhile), but we also *returned pews* to the St Joseph Altar area that had been removed years ago: this added about 30 additional seats for Sunday Mass. An *audio-input* outlet was installed underneath the Pentecost stained glass window, allowing us to get rid of a lot of extra electrical cables cluttering the St Joseph Altar area. In July 2020, we changed the Sunday Mass *schedule* to 8 Masses (from 11), two hours apart (instead of 1.5 hours apart), to allow pew sanitizing, but also to facilitate long-standing requests regarding parking and traffic jams when the Masses were too close together. Thanks to generous donors we were able to repair non-functioning *church lighting* fixtures and install *new longlasting LED lighting* (which should pay for itself in reduced energy costs over the next decade or so). Another parishioner gift allowed us to upgrade the *Youth Room Lighting*. Thanks to tremendous donated hard work of the Hispanic Knights of Columbus, church *bathrooms* received a lovely makeover (flooring, fixtures, lighting, painting, etc.). Due to streaming requirements during lockdown, *video streaming* equipment was installed, and Parish Center Room 1 received a *large digital television* to accommodate streaming for overflow attendance, once greater numbers were allowed at church. In the old *baptistery* the walls were repainted and storage shelving built (thanks to John Schaefer) for the new *olive wood Christmas creche* obtained during the Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Fall 2019. In the Vestibule you might have noticed the *new carpets* as well as the *reading rack plexiglass retainers* (design and construction thanks to John Schaefer), to allow materials to be placed in the rack without flopping all over the place. In the choir loft stairwell area lots of "junk" got reorganized, and *heavy-duty steel shelving* was put in place. We returned the *St Michael Hymnals* to the pews, but did not resume the purchase of Missalettes (a savings of \$7,000 per year, necessary, among others cuts, as our Offertory has dropped about \$300,000 per year compared to two years ago, as Sunday Mass attendance is currently running about 40% of pre-Covid numbers, but also "eyeballing" it, seems to be picking up; we'll do another Sunday count in the near future, and then again, for the annual count, in November). We continued the popular *one-sheet liturgy programs* with readings, and music references, which the Archdiocese began supplying during 2020 Covid restrictions (much less costly than Missalettes). If you'd like to purchase a Sunday Missal (entire 3-year cycle of readings) for Sundays and Major Feasts, I recommend the elegant, compact *Saint Paul Sunday Missal* (Pauline Books and Media). *Saturday 7:05am Mass* was restored, but not the previous Mon-Fri 7:05am Mass (it has been discussed in Pastoral Council). We now have two priests instead of three assigned to St Joseph, and alternate requests for a daily Latin Mass, evening Spanish Mass, etc., area being weighed (and State Workers are mostly still working from home).