

## Pastor's Column

### The Francis Xavier Rombouts Awards for 2018 and 2019

Annually, the Archdiocese of New Orleans honors two parishioners from each parish church with the St. Louis Award for exceptional service to their parish church over many years. In 2014, Fr. T instituted an award for St. Francis parishioners and friends who have served St. Francis Parish faithfully for many years: the **Francis Xavier Rombouts Award**, named for our patronal saint and founding pastor. The award has been given on a Sunday close to the December 3 Feast Day of St. Francis. Five or more parishioners received the award each year from 2014 through 2017.

Arriving here last summer of 2018, I didn't feel like I knew our parishioners well enough to give the awards in 2018. A year later, I am in a different place and am ready to give Rombouts awards for 2018 and 2019. Eleven individuals will be honored at the 10 am mass on Sunday, December 1, with a reception following mass in the church vestibule. I want to thank our Parish Staff and Parish Council for contributing to these selections. The newest recipients of the Rombouts awards are, in alphabetical order:

+ **Joe and Sue Ellen Canizaro**, for years of guiding the pastor and supporting the work of our church, our facilities, the rectory, the ministry to the poor and the priests.

+ **Jerry Compagno**, for longtime assistance in the church sacristy and for keeping the church clean on a daily basis.

+ **Bobby D'Hemecourt**, for many labors over the past few years which have turned our school's sports program into championship caliber.

+ **Jan Harrison**, for her longtime work with the Daughters of Isabella, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, Prison Ministry, and more recently, the Hospitality Ministry.

+ **David McDonald**, for his work with the Marriage and Family Ministry, the Knights, the Men's Club, the Parish Picnic, and various parish dinners and receptions.

+ **C. J. Rowden**, for years of service as a head Usher and for assisting with parish facilities. More than anyone else, C.J. helped complete the renovation of St. Joseph Hall and the Parish Center. He also fixes leaks at the rectory and changes flat tires for priests!

+ **Jeremy and Brigette Starr**, for significant labors with Home and School, the Men's Club, the School Board, Summer Cabbage Ball and the Christmas Market.

+ **Frank and Paulette Stewart**, for years of supporting the work of the church, our facilities and our ministries.

Please join me in congratulating our Francis Xavier Rombouts Award recipients for 2018 and 2019 at the 10 am mass on December 1 and the reception that follows. We are most grateful that each of them is an active part of our St. Francis Xavier Parish family.

God bless,  
Fr. Joe