

Pastor's Corner

Hurricane Season, Paul Laiche, Rice Bowl Collection and Fr. Kinney Scholarship Fund

Hurricane Season. We are entering Hurricane Season, which runs from June 1 to November 30. Knowing how destructive tropical weather can be in our area, the Church commends us to pray to Our Lady of Prompt Succor for protection from storm damage during hurricane season. Our Lady is the Secondary Patroness of New Orleans, alongside St. Louis IX, King of France, our Patron Saint. A prayer for protection from storm damage is in this week's bulletin. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us!

Paul Laiche retires. Paul Laiche, a lifelong St. Francis parishioner, recently retired after about 40 years of serving our Parish as a volunteer in the Parish Office. "Uncle Paul," as he is affectionately called, worked with incredible devotion for decades in the areas of liturgy and capital fundraising. At Uncle Paul's request, there was a low-key retirement celebration with our Parish and School Staff and two family members, which included an incredible chocolate doberge cake. Blessings on your retirement, Paul, and thank you for your tireless service to St. Francis Parish.

Rice Bowl Collection. Besides our scheduled collection for Catholic Relief Services this Spring, our parish also participated in Operation Rice Bowl, a C.R. S. Lenten Program to provide rice to the hungry in developing countries around the world. Our parishioners were invited to put their "spare change" into rice bowl boxes during Lent and turn in the boxes and money as Lent ended. I am pleased to report that our parish collected \$1,476.18 in loose change for this program. Considering how well C.R.S. stretches a dollar, a lot of people will eat rice because we donated our spare change during Lent. Thanks to all who participate in this outreach.

Fr. Tom Kinney Scholarship Fund. Fr. Tom Kinney served for many years as the Parochial Vicar or Associate Pastor of St. Francis Parish. He was a popular priest. He died in 2005 at the young age of 59 after a long battle with cancer.

Fr. Kinney was the moderator of the altar servers at St. Francis and had a special love for training young people to serve at God's altar. In his honor, the Fr. Tom Kinney Scholarship Fund was established to provide school tuition assistance to altar servers and their families. An altar server is eligible for scholarship money if he or she has served in the ministry for at least five years. Four altar servers qualify for funds this year.

The Scholarship Collection will take place on the weekend of June 15-16. Please be generous with this collection, keeping the memory of Fr. Kinney alive and assisting our altar servers in their educational needs.

God bless,
Fr. Joe