

Pastor's Column

First Anniversary Thank-Yous, Re-start of School and Ministries, and a Joke

First Anniversary Thank-Yous. I celebrate my first anniversary as Pastor of St. Francis on Saturday, August 10. To say that the past year has flown by is an understatement: “warp speed” is more like it. I am grateful to you, the parishioners of St. Francis, for your deep faith in God, your love and support of our parish and school, and your personal support and encouragement of me during the past year.

St. Francis is an active parish. In the past year, we have added to the slate of parish activities: some new theological and spiritual enrichment opportunities, some new social and hospitality events, and some new ministries and service opportunities. Thank you for your support, leadership and participation in these endeavors.

Re-start of School. Although we took a summer break at school, our school facilities and school yard remained in high usage during the summer with Summer Camp, Summer Cabbage ball and Vacation Bible Study. Thanks to all who helped make those activities times of blessing for our community and our youth.

We re-start the School Year with a faculty retreat on August 9, “Book Night” on August 13 and the first day of class on August 15. We have made changes to the school calendar and school schedule for the coming year. We also purchased 160 chrome books for use by St. Francis students in the 4th through 7th grade, helping to advance our commitment to a blended curriculum of traditional learning and computer-enhanced learning.

Re-start of Ministries. As you know, much of parish ministry is year-round: adorers in the Adoration Chapel, serving the poor and needy through our Helping Hands, the Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul, etc. However, many ministries did take a summer break. We look forward to the re-launch of all our ministries and the services they provide in the coming weeks.

A Joke I heard recently: *What is heaven?* Where the cooks are French, the police are English, the lovers are Italian, the mechanics are German, and the Swiss organize everything. *What is hell?* Where the cooks are English, the police are German, the lovers are Swiss, the mechanics are French, and the Italians organize everything!

As we move into a new season of prayer, spirituality, service and socializing, may the Holy Spirit guide and richly bless our faith community.

God bless,
Fr. Joe