

Parish Priest's Corner

Discipleship: A Call to Serve

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The disciples of Jesus heard Him make the second prediction of His Passion (His suffering, death, and resurrection) in Mark 10:45 which He states this way: "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Yet, they failed to understand it until after the resurrection. Today, having encountered the Risen Lord in the celebration of the Eucharist, we are reminded that the call to discipleship, which means to follow Jesus, is a call to serve with humility. Our role in Jesus' work is one of service, especially to the poor and lowly.

This call to discipleship was accepted by Orion Montalbano and Pete Goodbrod through their baptism two weeks ago in our parish. It is with great joy that I congratulate Orion and Pete and welcome them as members of our faith community. Please reach out to these two families and continue to support them in their faith.

Our Religious Education programs starts this Wednesday. This is part of faith formation that is not specific to children and the youth alone, but is also for adults. All of us; children, youth, and adults; are in an ongoing faith formation that eventually leads us back to God in heaven. As children embark on their own Religious Education on Wednesday evenings, adults can learn more about their faith through the process of RCIA, which takes place on the same evening. We will begin with Confessions at 4:30 p.m., Mass at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., and Classes at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

As I announced last weekend and to serve our spiritual needs, our parish has subscribed to an online platform called FORMED. FORMED provides access to comprehensive and inspiring Catholic content that serves to nourish our faith daily as individuals and as a faith community. Are you constantly searching for good, wholesome ways to enrich your faith, especially when you are at home? Are you seeking answers to those questions you have about some aspects of our Catholic faith? FORMED is the right place to go. It is wonderful for personal devotion and faith formation, adult faith formation, Scripture, Baptism, the Eucharist and much more. I highly recommend it. Our subscription provides free access to the best Catholic content right at your fingertips. To access FORMED, go to our parish website or use the details in the bulletin.

Our parish website is a major avenue through which we communicate who we are, our mission statement, and our work of evangelization to the outside world. In this technological day and age, it is the very first thing most people outside of our parish and even visitors see. In some sense, it serves as the face of our parish. Some of you may have noticed that about four weeks ago our parish website stopped functioning and the content in it was no longer assessible. I reported the incident to the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese. After inquiry, we learned that due to lack of web host security, our parish website was hacked and hijacked by an unknown source. To prevent such disruption in the future, the Office of Communications of the Archdiocese recommended that we switch to a company known as eCatholic, to help build and secure our parish website. I also realized that most parishes in the Archdiocese use eCatholic for their website. Following the archdiocesan recommendations, I am pleased to announce that our parish has a new, well-protected website.

The recent sexual abuse crisis in the Church has hurt all us and left many of our brothers and sisters broken. In such times as this, we continue to seek not only justice, but more so healing and peace, especially for the victims. The only person we can turn to is the Wounded Healer, Jesus Christ, who tells us "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." As such, the Archbishop has encouraged us to pray the St. Michael Prayer after each Mass. The prayer can be found on the back cover of the Breaking Bread missal.

Our parish picnic last Sunday was a joyful and successful event, which brought us together as a community. I thank Barbara and Linn Farey, Allison Hundley, Sharon Hennick, Francis Stadelman, Jim and Kathy Cowan and everyone who served in different ways to make the day a success.

As you enter a new week, may the Lord's blessings always abide with you.

Fr. Anthony