

Church of Saint Sebastian
February 10, 2019 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Father Jordan, O.P.

My Dear Ones,

May the grace of Our Lord remain always with us!

Since the Town Hall Meeting on January 14, I sense that we are more united on a great pilgrimage for the renewal of our Parish: I hope you will agree with me. I am doing my best to listen, and to address the different issues we discussed. As we walk this road together, I offer you this reflection about Parish Renewal from the Napa Institute.

Parish renewal is a popular topic these days, for good reason. The local parish is the place that most Catholics come to worship God and receive the Eucharist, as well as the other Sacraments. For the majority of us, it is the physical epicenter of the practice of our faith.

The big question is, how does a parish go about renewal? How does it even begin such a process? There are two answers to that question.

First, and most important of all, is the realization that renewal is a **spiritual endeavor, and must be centered around faith and prayer**. That might sound like a statement of the obvious, but the point is that better management and programs and theories cannot work without the complete and utter dependence on God's providence. Too often we go about the work of the Church forgetting that it must begin, end and be infused with prayer. Every step of parish renewal needs to be brought before Jesus, acknowledging that we do nothing on our own.

My response: First is my personal commitment to you that I am a man of prayer. One of our parishioners and I gather almost daily to say Morning Prayer (all are welcomed!), and there is the rest of the Divine Office, the rosary and meditation. However, my prayers only will not renew our Parish. Our prayer together in the Liturgy and our personal prayer needs to lead us to live that our family lives and our life at Saint Sebastian is all about Jesus, and where He invites our Parish to grow. Multiplying the opportunities for community prayer may be a path towards of bringing our Parish life before Jesus, but what is the response? Given our hectic schedules there is no ideal time, but the sacrifices we make for more prayerful lives, liturgically and personally, will never go unyielded by God. Saint Catherine of Siena tells us, "we do not need to be so small – hearted in the face of such generosity."

The second step of parish renewal, before we start talking about programs and music and hospitality and outreach – yes, before any of that – is the establishment of a real team of leaders, beginning with the pastor

himself. Without a pastor who is willing to lead and listen, and without a pastor who is willing to build a small team to help him in the daunting task of running a parish, the best programs and ideas will be almost impossible to sustain. In today's Church, pastors are often overwhelmed with questions and requests and duties, large and small. Without the support of a group of trusted men and women around him, pastors so often burn out. They need a team for delegation, for counsel, for support during difficult times, and even for fellowship. No CEO, no school principal, no coach should go about leading alone. A parish is no different. **Wait! A parish is different than those organizations.** It's more important than any company or school or enterprise. After all, people's eternal souls are at stake in a parish. And because Jesus is our model in all things, including parish life, and because He, the Son of God, surrounded Himself with a trusted team, our pastors should certainly do the same.

My response: You know I am willing to lead! I am constantly striving to find more effective ways in which to lead. (Remember my homily last week about power vs. authority?) The reestablishment of our Parish Council along with our faithful Trustees, Finance Council, and Mary Brennan form the core leadership team. The Co-Coordinator of Religious Education, our music director and cantor, round out this group of talented and sacrificing parishioners. In all charity, we need to develop and sharpen the vision and goals of our Parish so that we may lead more effectively. To do that, Saint Sebastian's is in need of more volunteers to help us become an ever greater and more loving Parish, and to help me be the most effective pastor I am able. Would you consider helping us lead?

Until we meet at the altar... ***O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee!***

In the Lord,

Fr. Jordan, OP

The Church of Saint Sebastian
Rev. Jordan Kelly, O. P., Pastor
Trustees: Charles Rogers, Catherine Taylor
Finance Committee: Charles Brusso, Ann Carnevale, Grace Dugan
Parish Council: Sarah Garcia-Mata, Mary Hill, Jamie Hill,
Janice Opalenski, Patricia Recupero, Ellen Reinhardt, Fred Reinhardt,
Rob Whelan

Church of Saint Sebastian

February 10, 2019 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

LITURGY TOOL BOX

SOME THOUGHTS ON MUSIC IN THE LITURGY

The qualities necessary for music to be “sacred”

Church teaching emphasizes that the music proper to the Sacred Liturgy possesses three qualities: sanctity, beauty and universality. Only music which possesses all three of these qualities is worthy of Holy Mass.

Sacred music should consequently possess, in the highest degree, the qualities proper to the liturgy, and in particular sanctity and goodness of form, which will spontaneously produce the final quality of universality.

a. The Sanctity of Sacred Music

Turning to the teaching of Pope St. Pius X, which has had a significant impact on the teaching of the Second Vatican Council in this regard, we read:

Sacred music must be holy, and must, therefore, exclude all profanity not only in itself, but in the manner in which it is presented by those who execute it.⁸

Vatican II emphasized the sanctity of sacred music in these terms:

Sacred music is to be considered the more holy in proportion as it is more closely connected with the liturgical action, whether it adds delight to prayer, fosters unity of minds, or confers greater solemnity upon the sacred rites. ⁹

b. The Intrinsic Beauty (Artistic Goodness) of Sacred Music

Since everything associated with the Mass must be beautiful, reflecting the infinite beauty and goodness of the God we worship, this applies in a special way to the music which forms an essential and integral part of our divine worship. In the words of Pope Francis:

Liturgical and sacred music can be a powerful instrument of evangelization, because it gives people a glimpse of the beauty of heaven.

Pope Benedict XVI states:

Certainly, the beauty of our celebrations can never be sufficiently cultivated, fostered and refined, for nothing can be too beautiful for God, Who is Himself infinite Beauty. Yet our earthly liturgies will never be more than a pale reflection of the liturgy celebrated in the Jerusalem on high, the goal of our pilgrimage on earth. May our own celebrations nonetheless resemble that liturgy as closely as possible and grant us a foretaste of it!

c. The Universality of Sacred Music

Finally, the third essential quality of sacred music must be considered, i.e. its universality. This quality means that any composition of sacred music, even one which reflects the unique culture of a particular region, would still be easily recognized as having a sacred character. The quality of holiness, in other words, is a universal principle that transcends culture.

This articulation of the essential qualities of sacred music is necessary because there is often a lack of understanding or confusion as to what music is proper to the Mass and worthy of its inclusion in divine worship. Not every form or style of music is capable of being rendered suitable for the Mass.

One often gets the impression that, as long as the written text of the music or song speaks about God, then it qualifies as “sacred music.” Given what has been articulated here, this is clearly not the case. As an example, the Gloria of the Mass set to a Polka beat or in the style of rock music is not sacred music. Why not? Because such styles of music, as delightful as they might be for the dance hall or a concert, do not possess all three of the intrinsic qualities of sanctity, artistic goodness (beauty) and universality proper to sacred music. While Catholics rightly expect genuine sacred music in all its forms to have spiritual and emotional impact, there is a necessary divide between that and what generally we call entertainment.

Church of Saint Sebastian

Founded October 15, 1915

IMPORTANT DATES FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

March 30, 2019 : SACRAMENTAL FAMILY RETREAT

April 28, 2019: SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Bishop Robert Evans will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on 14 of our Parishioners on **Sunday, April 28 at the 11:00 am Mass**. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

May 12, 2019: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Twenty-one of our parishioners will receive their First Holy Communion on **Mothers' Day – Sunday, May 12 at the 9:00 am Mass**. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Many parishioners have already received letters from the Diocese of Providence requesting donations to their annual Catholic Charity Appeal.

To be sure that your generous contributions are properly credited to Saint Sebastian Parish in an effort to reach our parish goal, we ask that you do not mail your donation but instead place it in the collection basket at your convenience. We will properly credit your gift and forward it on to the Diocese. Thank you.

PARISH FINANCES: 2/3/2019

Mass Contributions	\$ 4,027.00
Online Parish Giving	\$ 1,947.00
Monthly Maintenance	\$ 1,354.00
Total Donations	\$ <u>7,328.00</u>
Total Parish Expenses	\$ 9,030.00
Shortfall of Funds	\$ 1,702.00

We sincerely thank you for your continued support!

Dear Father Kelly,

“Whatsoever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters you did unto me.”

These words of Our Lord Jesus have inspired the charitable deeds of his disciples throughout the ages, and they are words that motivate our diocesan **Keep the Heat On** program as well.

I am writing to say thank you to **St. Sebastian Church** for the very generous gift of \$3,699.75 to this year's **Keep the Heat On** appeal. Please extend my gratitude to all those who participated in this effort.

Since its beginning 13 years ago, the **Keep the Heat On** program has provided approximately \$2.95 million in heating assistance to more than 13,100 households in our region. These are individuals and families who had nowhere else to turn to warm their homes and warm their hearts.

Jesus promised heavenly rewards for those who assisted “the least of their brothers and sisters” in time of need. With confidence in the Lord's promise, I pray that He will reward your generosity as well. Thank you so much for your help!

Sincerely yours,
Thomas J. Tobin
Bishop of Providence

I am very sorry to inform the parishioners that on Monday, February 4th I had to dismiss Ryan Meireles from his employment as the Maintenance Man of our Parish. This action was necessitated because of some job performance issues, and further insubordination.

Sadly Ryan's reaction was less than acceptable: he performed acts of vandalism within our Church. The police were contacted and a thorough investigation is underway. There is a restraining order against Ryan. If you see him near the Parish, or in the Church, please call 911.

Any damage has been repaired. I am grateful for your understanding, as well as your prayers for my safety. Please, pray for Ryan. **Fr. Jordan, OP**

Save the date: March 9 & 10, 2019: PARISH LENTEN MISSION AND PASTA WITH THE PADRES

Join us March 9th and 10th for a weekend of reflection, led by Fr. Matthew Dougherty, O.Praem. At this beginning of Lent we will pause and reflect how Lent 2019 can be the best Lent ever!

1. When: Attend any of the weekend Masses as Father Matthew unveils the plan for the Best Lent Ever!
2. Sunday: Following Sunday's 11:00 am Mass there will be Eucharistic Adoration; plan to spend some time with the Blessed Sacrament in quiet adoration.
3. At 4:00 pm: Closing Vespers and Benediction with preaching that ties the day together.
4. At 5:00 pm: *Pasta with Padres* – enjoy a homemade spaghetti dinner **prepared and served by the Padres!**
\$5 per person; \$10 per family.

Church of Saint Sebastian
Founded October 15, 1915

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 9, Vigil: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 pm URSULA SHEA, 4th anniversary requested by her family

Sunday, February 10, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am *PRO POPULO*

11:00 am WILLIAM TRACEY, requested by John and Mary Cappelli

Monday, February 11, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of Prayer for the Sick

7:00 am *FOR ALL THE SICK AND FOR ALL MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS*

Tuesday, February 12, Blessed Reginald, O.P.

7:00 am *FOR A SPECIAL INTENTION*

7:30 am Novena Prayers - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday, February 13, Blessed Jordan of Saxony, O.P.

7:00 am *FOR FATHER JORDAN ON HIS FEAST DAY*

Thursday, February 14, Saint Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop

7:00 am *FOR ALL ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES*

Friday, February 15, Ferial Day

7:00 am *FOR A GREATER APPRECIATION OF GOD'S BLESSINGS*

Saturday, February 16, Ferial Day

9:00 am *FOR THE HEALING OF THE VICTIMS OF CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE*

Saturday, February 16, Vigil: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 pm ELEANOR "DODIE" McCARRON, requested by Mary Cappelli

Sunday, February 17, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am ANTONIO CAPONE, birthday remembrance, requested by his family

11:00 am *PRO POPULO*

Welcome

In my own name and on behalf of the People of Saint Sebastian's, welcome to our Parish! If you are visiting, coming back to the Church and Mass after some time away, or looking for a Parish, you are most welcome here at Saint Sebastian's.

Join in praying for the Bishops of the World as they meet with Pope Francis.

NOVENA PRAYER FOR ST. JOSEPH'S INTERCESSION

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires.

Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, though Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never wear contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him close in my name, and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls,, pray for me.

Amen.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!
www.stsebastianri.org

Won't You Join Us?

Sunday	2/10	Religious Education	10:00 am	Classrooms
Monday	2/11	Religious Education	4:00 pm	Classrooms
		CGS	4:15 pm	Atrium
Wednesday	2/13	Unfolding the Truth	7:00 pm	Fr. Randall Room