

God Bless you Archbishop

I have to admit that I was sad to hear that Archbishop Mansell was retiring. He certainly deserves some time to himself after many years of service to the Church. I want you to know that given all that we have been through here at St. Paul's, I believe that Archbishop Mansell had a special place in his heart for us. Whenever I saw him, he asked about St. Paul's and was very interested to hear how things were going. He has been a great supporter of Catholic Education and much of the financial aid we are able to offer in our school comes from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. His concern for the poor and the sick of the Archdiocese was also very evident from the initiatives sponsored by the appeal. Most of all, whenever I spoke with him, he was a humble gentleman. When our school children and teachers heard that Archbishop Mansell was retiring, they came to church to pray for him and our new Archbishop. They even wrote a little message to him and made a little video to send to him with their best wishes. The last words of the video were, "We love you Archbishop Mansell and we will never forget you." Truer words were never spoken.

Our Campaign

As I write this on Thursday, I am happy to say that we have surpassed \$1,000,000, and that is from just 375 pledges. Several people have been very generous and we are well on our way to making our goal. The experts tell me however, that now it is important for everyone else to join in the effort to finish off the campaign. They calculate that because many of the large memorials are already taken, we will need a significant number of smaller gifts to reach our goal. Please do what you can to help us get rid of the eyesore and make a beautiful parish green. A heartfelt thank you to those who have already done so.

40 Days for Life

I think I forgot to mention and thank those involved with our 40 Days for Life Eucharistic Adoration. For 24 hours straight, right through the night, parishioners joined in a nation-wide effort to pray for the establishment of a culture of life in our country and around the world. I was so moved to see people come and go to take their turn in prayer. I believe close to 60 people were involved. Someday it is my hope that our parish will regularly gather around the Eucharist in Adoration praying for both the needs of our parish and the needs of the whole world. Thank you to all who participated.

Important Religious Education News

This year, in addition to our normal ways of informing you about weather closings or changes to our program, our Religious Education Program has contracted with a service called "School Reach" to keep the parents of our Religious Education students informed. Yes, we promise to still use the local media to get the word out, but now in addition to

the local media, the child's home and the parent's cell phones will be called. The numbers you entered during the registration process will be the ones called.

The question is how many friars does it take to screw in a light bulb.?

No, the real question is how many parishioners does it take to run our Berlin Fair Booth? The answer is 135 volunteers. We are still waiting for some bills to come in, but it looks like our efforts at the Berlin Fair have paid off again. I want to thank everyone who worked the fair. It is so important for our Church and our School to be present for this very large community event.

Masses on the Mountain

Last week Fr. Peter and Sal Biase, our youth minister, climbed Talcott Mountain" two times, once with our 9th grade Confirmation classes and a second time with all the Saint Paul School Middle School Students. Each time, after they hiked up the mountain (about a 45 minute walk), they celebrated Mass in a pavilion and then enjoyed the fall foliage and the view from the Heublein Tower. It is pretty hard to get 9th graders excited about anything, but several expressed that they were happy that they went and enjoyed their time together. A special thank you to Fr. Peter (I think the hikes made his cold worse) and Sal for their willingness to spend time with our young people.

Pastoral Council News

The Pastoral Council held a dinner for the leaders of our parish ministries and initiatives and our parish office staff. The purpose of the evening was to give all of these leaders a chance to get to know each other and show them our appreciation for their many sacrifices. Because we have such an involved parish, it is important for everyone to work together. This has been one of the main initiatives of our Pastoral Council this year and in the spring the hope is to provide another opportunity for all the parish leaders to get together and share ideas and best practices. Always under pressure to say what has to be said and move the night along (the World Series was coming on), I realized as I was walking out that I did not mention all of the members of the Pastoral Staff by name (Annie Molleda, Sal Biase and especially Carmen Guzzardi, our Deacon). All of you play key roles in the life of our parish, and even though I forgot to mention you by name, please know that we appreciate your sacrifices very very much. Sadly, as many of you saw in the bulletin, Annie will be leaving us just before Christmas to move to Florida with her family. She has been an exceptional DRE and she will leave big shoes to fill. Thank you Annie for all that you have done for us and best wishes in sunny Florida. We'll think of you when we're snowed in this winter.

God Bless,
Fr. Robert