

FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

Today is “Priesthood Sunday.” It is traditionally a time to pray for our priests and an increase of vocations. With Father Will and all of our brother priests, we want to thank you, the faithful, for your prayers and support. I know you count on us to be there for you. Please know that every day we count on you for your prayers for us so that we may always strive to be good, holy, faithful, and joyful priests. Your prayers can make such a difference.



We also need you to pray with us for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Earlier in my priesthood, I was blessed to be the Director of Vocations and the Rector of Saint Paul Seminary. What a privilege it was to walk with men discerning the priesthood.

I learned many lessons during those years. One of the lessons I learned back then in that ministry is that God still calls. Unfortunately, given all of the noise of today’s society, it is difficult to hear the call. What is more, it is just as hard to respond to the call. How sad it was when young men heard the call but lacked the familial support to embrace the call. I remember one mother sharing with me that she was scared to death because her son wanted to be a priest.

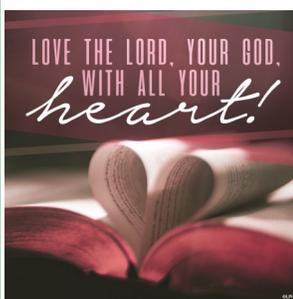
The second lesson I learned is that the work of promoting vocations is a “shared responsibility” beginning in the home and continuing in the parish. It is not just the bishop or vocation director who is charged with this task but all of the faithful. Do you pray for vocations?

One of the ways I sought to enhance awareness of vocations and obtain a buy-in, if you will, from the faithful was to form vocation councils whose sole task was to on the parish level pray for and encourage vocations. More recently, when I became pastor of Saint Bernard Parish 11 years ago, I formed a vocation council. A small but dedicated group of men and women gathered regularly to pray for vocations and support all priests and religious. In that time, the parish watched two young men become priests. There are currently two other men in the pipeline preparing for the priesthood. I attribute these vocations in large part to the families of origin and devoted prayer of the parish vocation council.

It is now time to begin a vocation council in our parish whose primary role will be to come together and pray for and support vocations. If you are interested in becoming a member of this new ministry, please contact me at dbonnar@saintaidanparish.org or call the parish office. Even if you are unable to become a member of the council at this time, please, I ask you, to pray for priests and more vocations. We need your prayers! Be assured always of our prayers for you.

The Gospel today really puts our Christian lives in perspective. When the Pharisees ask Jesus, which is the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus is quick to point out that it is all about love—loving God and our neighbor. This love is the basis of what it means to be a disciple, not to mention a priest.

It is the custom when a man is ordained a priest for him to have a prayer card as a remembrance of the event. The prayer card usually cites a scripture verse by which to live by. I chose on my card, “Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12). This really sums it all up. We are always to be creatures of love no matter what. And in the end, all that will matter on judgment day is how much we loved one another. Of course, to love as Jesus loves is to forgive.



This Gospel passage that we hear today, clearly reveals that to love God is to love our neighbor. The objects of our love are inextricably linked.

There is an old song made famous by Jackie DeShannon, “What the World Needs Now Is Love, Sweet Love. It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of. What the world needs now is love, sweet love, No, not just for some, but for everyone.” Quite simply, we cannot hold back on our love, for love has no limits or a sense of exclusiveness. Our world of Wexford, Pennsylvania, and the United States needs love. Let us go forth to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

This Wednesday, October 28, Bishop William Walterscheid, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh, will be speaking to our entire staff on the work of Evangelization.

Next Sunday is November 1, 2020, the Solemnity of All Saints. Monday, November 2, is the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed otherwise known as All Souls Day. It is the custom of the Church on this day to pray for the dead. In order to not restrict anyone in this effort, we will have two outdoor Masses on this day. The first one will be at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Alexis parking lot. The second one will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Saint Alphonsus parking lot. All are welcome!

You can also go to our website to inscribe the name of your deceased in our online Book of Remembrance.

Have a blessed week!