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(Lent/Easter)

The

Memorare

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The official newsletter of the Parishes of
St. Bernard of Clairvaux and
St. Mary of the Assumption – Akron, Ohio

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly to you, O virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer us. (attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux)



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A Word from Father Chris

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every disappointment is accompanied by an advantage. Jesus Christ, in addition to teaching us to not be afraid before or during challenging events, taught us to journey onward and upward after challenging events, even if they do not turn out as we had hoped. In such teachings as “shake the dust off of your feet” and “those who persevere to the end will be saved,” Jesus led us in prioritizing the things of heaven over the things of earth and thus gave us the leadership to pursue an advantage even as we experience disappointment and sorrow. I am sure we are all very sad as virtually every event in life was cancelled for most of us for the month of March and perhaps April. I myself already had a major cancellation for JUNE! It has been so difficult to be a priest without the people right in front of us. But we called some people to help us set up video recording technology... and drive—thru confessionals... and this newsletter... and had a little fun learning making You Tubes and playing Monopoly... ADVANTAGES!?! See what I did there?

Like Jesus nailed to the Cross completely naked, we have been stripped of MANY THINGS we hide behind: sports, theaters, concerts, restaurants, routines, social gatherings, etc. Like Him we also have the great privilege in this time to confront our appetites, desires and priorities and make the most out of reflecting upon them, appreciating them, adjusting them and making them better than they ever have been! It is clear what we are living for. It is clear what we need to do. Now how to do it?

As parish communities, I want to take ADVANTAGE of this challenging time to introduce this bi-monthly or perhaps quarterly newsletter of both communities, The MEMORARE! Included in this initial issue above is the famous prayer itself. It is a prayer to the Blessed Mother Mary written by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. It is perfect for us! Thanks to its editor, Sue Kramer, for the creative title, crafty formatting, and time putting it together. It is my hope that through this newsletter we can be even better connected to each other, especially with the main and essential events and news of the parishes. I hope that those who are responsible for leading activities in our churches will be able to use this as a way to communicate with each other. I also hope to use this newsletter as a space to invite your questions, input and ownership of our church communities even more. In this initial edition are important announcements about the following weekends, schedules for palms, confessions and digital streaming of Masses, spiritual reflection and renewal, and resources to nurture your spirituality and walk with God from home.

This time is so challenging because it is so limiting! But in the very limiting locations of the cross and the stone tomb, powerful, beautiful moments in God’s plan for us came to be. May it be the same for us in this time! Be open to the work of the Spirit and notice what you notice! God bless us! Mary pray for us! – Father Chris

Catholic Quote of the Month



**"When God forgives a sinner who humbly confesses his sin,
the devil loses his dominion over the heart he had taken."**

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

Cistercian Abbot, Doctor of the Church, & Patron Saint of St. Bernard Parish

God Bless and Protect the Cleveland Diocese

As you know, since February 18 when Bishop Pérez was installed as the Archbishop of Philadelphia, we in the Cleveland Diocese have been without a bishop. Bishop Pérez was with us for a very short time, and we were very lucky to be in his good hands. We enjoyed his visits to our parishes, and appreciated his pastoral guidance.

Just as we did when we were without a pastor, it might be a good thing for us to pray every day for our next bishop. Good leadership makes all the difference, and as Jesus told us, when two or more are gathered in His name, He will be with us.



Jesus, in Your endless mercy, please send the Cleveland Diocese a good and faithful bishop, who loves us, but who loves You and Your Church even more. We ask this in Your most Holy Name. Amen.

The Crusaders Corner – News from St. Mary School

Because the Governor has closed the schools of Ohio until May 1 or later, there is unfortunately no news from the school except that the last thing that was done as a school community before going home for this exceptionally long Spring Break was the Live Stations of The Cross by our 8th Grade Class on the stage and in the gym at St. Mary's! They did a very fine job and set the tone for us as we carry this cross together of being away from each other and do our learning and praying from home.

We look forward to returning to "life as usual" once the Coronavirus precautions are lifted. We will be aggressively growing our Alumni Association this Summer! After the All-Alumni Comeback Mass at St. Mary this past January saw 160 in attendance, we have decided to go forward with contracting a professional development company, DotOrg Solutions, to assist us in getting the word out and doing a proper job to grow our Alumni database, connections and activities!

Stay tuned to our website for more information and also to this newsletter. Or, you can e-mail alumniassociation@stmaryakron.com or call the parish office for more information or to register yourself into the association!

The Staff Speaks: Father Chris and Cheri Colianni

From Fr. Chris: While we are all cooped up in the quarantine, check the parishes' websites and Facebook pages for notifications of Masses, Stations, and other activities and messages broadcast from St. Bernard and St. Mary. Father Frank and I, as well as the talented musicians connected to each parish, are doing our best to keep us connected in these days of social distancing (*which does not necessarily mean social isolation!*) We priests will continue to remember the scheduled Mass intentions in our daily privately celebrated Masses, whether they are broadcasted or not. The intentions may be transferred if you would like to a future date; please let us know. Also, if you have cable television, EWTN offers daily and Sunday Masses, as well as the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, among other quality programming.

Please do not forget to support our parish with your offertory envelopes or by giving online through each parish's website. Even though we cannot attend Masses at the parish, the bills continue to come in and must be paid – electric, gas, payroll, etc. Extra bills will accumulate as well because of our investment in live-streaming liturgies. We have temporarily reduced parish staff of just the two priests, the two business managers and one maintenance person. If you are able, please mail your offering to the parish: 44 University Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44308. Or go to <https://www.givegab.com/nonprofits/st-mary-church-and-school> or <https://stbernardakron.weshareonline.org/> *God will *not* be outdone in generosity – every sacrifice you make for your parish will be paid back, “with a cup filled up and overflowing!”*

Finally, in your kindness, please take a moment to remember, every day, those who suffer with the coronavirus and those who care for them – and the rest of us – during this deadly pandemic. You might even want to pray a Memorare (see top of front page) for the sick, the healthcare professionals, ambulance drivers, utility workers, and public works, public safety, and food workers, all of whom continue to put their lives in danger in order to keep this country going and to keep us healthy, fed, safe, and comfortable. And finally, please pray for Pope Francis and us clergy and staff of the parishes. Every prayer and sacrifice counts! See the special indulgence available via the information in this newsletter, too!

From Cheri Colianni, St. Bernard Business Manager: Firstly, please hold on to your baby bottles for Embrace Clinic until further notice. Secondly, I came across this story that I thought you'd appreciate:

Over a hundred years ago, a university student found himself seated in a train by the side of a person who seemed to be a well-to-do peasant. He was praying the Rosary and moving the beads in his fingers. “Sir, do you still believe in such outdated things?” asked the student of the old man. “Yes, I do. Do you not?” asked the man. The student burst out into laughter and said, “I do not believe in such silly things. Take my advice. Throw the Rosary out through the window, and learn what science has to say about it.” “SCIENCE? I do not understand,” the man said humbly with some tears in his eyes. The student saw that the man was deeply moved. So, to avoid further hurting the feelings of the man, he said, “Please give me your address and I will send you some literature to help you on the matter. The man fumbled in the inside pocket of his coat and gave the boy his visiting card. On glancing at the card, he read, “Louis Pasteur, Director of the Institute of Scientific Research Paris.” ***The Rosary is Mary's Prayer – Pray the Rosary Daily***

Thank you for all those who have sent in their contributions. We understand this is a tough and uncertain time for everybody. Stay safe, say your prayers – and wash your hands! ☺

Parish Growth, Repair, and Development at St. Mary

It is a shame that we were quarantined at this time of the year!!! We had two events planned for the first time EVER! Both had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus precautions: March 28th was to be an ecumenical summit for girls' wellness by women leaders of the greater-Akron community. April 4th was to be a morning of women's retreat “Walking the Passion with Mary.” Both events will be back and we move on now to our second Comeback/All-Alumni Mass at a date TBD and to our 2nd Annual Urban Renaissance Parish Festival, tentatively scheduled for September 13th! We look forward to assisting the Alumni Association get going and since our brother church, St. Bernard, had such a positive experience with the company overseeing its engineering and restoration efforts, we are requesting permission from the diocese to have the same company, THP Engineering, do the envelope studies of the school and church buildings to progress on a campaign for much needed repairs! Meanwhile, however, thank you to the great work of the sacristans for keeping the church clean, our Custodian Tom Hollingsworth for finding and fixing the problems with leaky pipes and the boiler, and to Tony Crookston and a nice man from Beam Construction for finding and repairing the leak on the school roof. We also look forward to two new signs and possibly even a landscape renovation if and when the Main Street road construction ever finishes! Happy Easter to ALL!!!

Featured Organization – the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut to aid Catholic immigrants, widows, and orphans who faced bigotry and extreme poverty. Since then, it has grown to a global Catholic men's organization dedicated to serving those in need and to the Church. We are blessed to have Council #547, one of the oldest in Ohio, established November 29, 1900 at St. Bernard.



The Knights worldwide contributed to restoring Vatican interiors, aiding immigrants at the border with food, supplies, medical care, and humanitarian aid, and getting the message of the Church out by means of films, television, and radio. In America, they take a special interest in pro-life activities, from abortion to the death penalty, as well as the protection of marriage and families. They also devote themselves to those with health issues such as Down Syndrome. They live and defend the teaching of the Church.

At St. Bernard, the Knights have paid for and donated services to polish the marble floors of the church, to equip the church with a defibrillator for emergencies, and to upgrade the parking lot entrance with a mechanized door to assist those with difficulties, among many other projects. For the last several years, they have held a free-throw tournament for the children at St. Mary, organized a bowling meet for the parish altar servers, and provided warm winter coats for children at St. Mary School whose families cannot afford to buy coats. They helped out at the St. Mary Renaissance Fair by cooking and serving food. Some of our Knights have also joined Knights from other parishes to travel to natural disaster areas to assist victims of hurricanes and flooding with supplies, by clearing debris, and rebuilding their communities. The Knights offer constant prayer support and assistance to priests and seminarians of our Diocese. They can always be found where anyone is in need of prayer and assistance. They are very honored to count both Fr. Chris and Fr. Frank as members, as well as Fr. Schindler and our former bishop, Archbishop Nelson Pérez. The Knights put themselves at the service of our pastor and both parishes, as well as the bishops, the Pope, and the worldwide Church.

The Knights welcome new members. If any man of either St. Mary or St. Bernard Parish is interested in joining the Knights, contact Peter Ossai, Grand Knight at 330-253-5161 or ossai_peter@yahoo.com, or any other Knight, who will be happy to answer questions. ***Serve the Holy Catholic Church and your parish – be a Knight!***

An Act of Spiritual Communion

It has been a very unexpected sacrifice this unforgettable Lent for most of us to be without Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. When you join our parishioners in watching the Holy Mass broadcast from St. Bernard, St. Mary, the Diocese, or EWTN, you can participate in Communion and opening your heart and soul to Our Lord by saying this prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



*O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!
(3 times)*

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Beyond!

Fri, 4/3	<p>Drive-Thru Confessions at St. Bernard Parking lot, 4:30-6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bilingual Stations of the Cross live via “St. Bernard St. Mary You Tube” and the St. Bernard website.</p> <p>Eucharistic Adoration live from St. Francis of Assisi, Gates Mills 7:00 pm on https://www.stbernardakron.org/live-stream-and-broadcast-archive</p>
Sat, 4/4	<p>Drive-Thru Confessions at St. Bernard Parking Lot, 2:30-4:00 pm.</p> <p>Palm Sunday Mass for both parishes live-streamed live through Facebook and available online afterwards through “St. Bernard St. Mary You Tube”</p> <p>Blessed Palms available at in the Upper Lot, Main St. & High St. at St. Bernard 5:30-7:00 pm</p>
Sun, 4/5	<p>Palm Sunday Mass available online through the websites and Facebook.</p> <p>Blessed Palms available at St. Mary’s 9:00-10:30 am. St. Mary Open for devotion at that time and by arrangement during Holy Week.</p> <p>Palm Sunday Mass in Spanish 12:00-1:30 p.m. at St. Bernard.</p> <p>Blessed Palms available at St. Bernard 10:00-11:30 am and 1:30-3:00 pm in the Upper Lot, Main St. and High St.</p> <p>Evening Lenten “XLT” Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary using the St. Mary Monstrance available through https://www.stbernardakron.org/live-stream-and-broadcast-archive by RooCatholic University of Akron Newman Center</p>
4/6, 4/7, & 4/8	<p>Drive-Thru Confessions and Blessed Palms available 12:00-1:00 p.m. and 5:15-7:00 pm at St. Bernard Parking Lot</p>
Thu, 4/9	<p>Holy Thursday Mass at St. Bernard LIVE at 7:00 p.m. Check websites and Facebook.</p>
Fri, 4/10	<p>Good Friday Liturgy at St. Mary LIVE at 3:00 pm. Check websites and Facebook.</p> <p>Begin the Divine Mercy Novena: See https://www.stbernardakron.org/divine-mercy-novena for more details.</p>
Sat, 4/11	<p>NO EASTER BASKET BLESSING THIS YEAR PER DIOCESAN GUIDELINES</p> <p>Abbreviated Easter Vigil at St. Bernard LIVE at 7:30 p.m.</p>
Sun, 4/12	<p>Easter Mass LIVE at St. Mary at 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Easter Mass LIVE at St. Bernard at 12:00 p.m. (Bilingual)</p> <p>Easter Mass from Holy Saturday also still available at https://www.stbernardakron.org/live-stream-and-broadcast-archive</p>
Fri, 4/17	<p>Day 8 Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena and The Stations of The Resurrection by RooCatholic U of A Newman Center LIVE at 6:00 p.m. and available through the broadcast archives afterwards.</p>
Sat, 4/18 & Sun, 4/19 & following	<p>Drive-Thru Confessions will be 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday at St. Bernard or contact to arrange a time until COVID restrictions are lifted. Masses will be at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, 9:00 a.m. on Sunday and 12:00 Noon on Sunday in Spanish LIVE and via Facebook and website archive until COVID restrictions are lifted. There will be occasional Masses for RooCatholic with music by Matt Fafrak on occasion during the week. See www.RooCatholic.com for more on this.</p> <p>The Conclusion of the Divine Mercy Novena and Eucharistic Adoration will be LIVE from St. Bernard on Sunday, April 19th at 3:00 p.m. by the Divine Mercy Cenacle of St. Bernard and St. Mary Parishes. https://www.stbernardakron.org/divine-mercy-novena</p>

The Divine Dime: Spiritual Challenges and Providence During Coronavirus ***by Terry Fercana (St. Bernard)***

As an “orphaned adult” and single person who lives alone, the void of human interaction seemed all the greater, and the family I have come to depend on – co-workers, fellow Parishioners and friends – were one by one being separated from me. When the Diocese announced that attending church and receiving the Eucharist was no longer an option, I texted Father Chris, “I am broken,” and I fell to my knees, sobbing inconsolably.

I was a young 26-year-old when I lost my mom – my best friend. After 32 years, time and faith have healed the wounds and filled the voids, but in early March she weighed on my mind most especially, and I was missing her as much as if her passing happened only yesterday.

Growing up, she always had this “thing” for saving dimes...no other coins, just dimes, and there was a big jar of them in my parents’ bedroom. At Easter, she would fill a plastic egg full of dimes and would add an egg to each of our baskets. My brother and I thought we were rich. I found myself remembering those plastic eggs – and her – with great love and a deep desire to know that she was with me.

As I scrolled through Facebook, an ad for a “Divine Dime” bracelet popped up – a simple wire bracelet made with a real dime. I clicked on the link, and the description read, “Sometimes the loved ones we have lost drop hints that they’re still with us. This is a perfect way to remember to pick up on those messages...given with love.” Of course, I ordered it.

I tell you this story, because my mindset and moment of “being broken” has been transformed. I no longer take moments like this for granted. I open my daily devotionals, and the messages seem to speak to me with greater timeliness and relevancy. I virtually attend Mass, and the Homily resonates with deeper clarity and meaning. In the still small voice, I realize that silence is not solitude.



May all of our challenges be transformed into opportunities. May we all be united in faith and love, with an understanding that we are never alone. May we all find our Divine Dime.

God bless you all – Terry Fercana

Coping with Quarantine – the Hofacker Family (St. Bernard)

The Hofackers are long-time members of the Church in Akron and have had family members at St. Bernard at least all the way to the 1903 construction of the current building if not before! Father Chris asked them as the current three generations of this family to reflect on their COVID experiences. Here’s what they had to say!

Tillie (92) - On the negative side, I feel closed in right now. No one can come to visit me. I miss my grandchildren, nieces and nephews and I miss going to Church and dinner every Saturday. The World Wars were also very bad, as was the Depression time. But I do not recall folks "hoarding" stuff like they are doing today with items like toilet paper, hand sanitizer, etc.... It seemed as though everyone was poor back in those days and kind of in the same boat. Sometimes we had neighbors come over to share in a meal if they had no food. Our family was on WPA (Works Progress Administration) and my dad worked digging ditches for roads and parks and his digging partner was a dentist. Still, on a positive note, even though my days are lonely right now, life is still so much better today. People don't realize how good they have it, even in these rough times of the virus. When I was born, we had an outhouse. When I was a few years old my parents and their six kids

moved to a place with running water (albeit cold water). You didn't bathe but every few days and when you did you had to heat the water on the coal stove. We had no electricity, no refrigerator and the three girls slept in one bedroom in one bed, while the 3 boys slept in one bed in the other bedroom. Of course, my mom and dad had the final bedroom.

Rick (60) For me, this Pandemic is the worst thing that I have ever seen in my life. Up until now, it was September 11, 2001. On the negative side, it has caused me a lot of stress in that since you cannot see the virus, I can only hope that I am not a carrier, because I do see a significant number of older folks in my practice. It has hurt me financially and the "not knowing" of when it will all be over, creates an unneeded anxiety. However, when God closes a door, he does open a window. So, on the positive aspect of all this, to be able to have ALL of my children home at the same time has been a delight. With their ages 24, 22, 19, & 15, they are soon to be taking their own paths in life. With the exception of Holidays, I do not think that I will ever have them all at home together for this significant amount of time ever again. We have been going for family hikes, playing board games, eating meals together and I actually sat down on the couch the other night and watched a movie IN IT'S ENTIRETY with my little girl...and that hasn't happened in years and years. I am usually in a big rush to get here or there and the COVID-19 has forced me to slow down and reconnect with my family and that has truly been a blessing! Beth (age unknown) On the negative side, I have had to do more laundry, plan daily meals, which can be very challenging (because there is no more eating out and no menu at home for finicky kids), and the constant fear that someone close to me could get sick and even die from the virus. The benefits, however, have been many. The memories that we are making together as a family (even though it is a crisis for so many) are times that I will forever treasure. The meals together, the board games and puzzles remind me of all of the wonderful times when the kids were little and we enjoyed the "simpler things in life." This has reinforced the importance of family and being together!

Brandon (24) On the negative side, it is kind of like being back in High School. It's harder to work out, stay healthy, and I miss the interaction with other human beings. I can't even tell which day it is anymore! On the positive side, it's been nice to relax and catch up on activities (like reading) that I have missed. But it has been great to be back home with the family, playing games and stuff. Nicholas (22) The negative part of COVID-19 for me is that it has ruined my last year of college at Ohio State (I was due to graduate May 3rd). However, from the positive point of view, I have enjoyed having a little bit more free time. Joshua (19) There have been too many distractions, but I have really enjoyed the free time. Michelle (15) It has been all positive for me. Family time = Great time!!

A Plenary Indulgence Available at This Time – by Hannah Bockhaus,
www.catholicnewsagency.com

The Holy Father has issued a plenary indulgence for people with COVID-19 and for Healthcare workers and family members who have exposed themselves to the risk of contagion in caring for those ill with COVID-19 and for those who pray for them by participating spiritually in a devotion such as the rosary or the Way of the Cross. The coronavirus indulgence is also granted to those who are at the point of death, provided they are properly disposed and in the habit of prayer.

Catholics around the world who pray for an end to the pandemic, healing for the sick, and the eternal repose of the dead are also granted the indulgence. Plenary indulgences, which remit all temporal punishment due to sin, must be accompanied by full detachment from sin.

Accompanying this is the necessity to go to sacramental confession, receive the Eucharist, and pray for the intentions of the pope as soon as possible. You can also get the indulgence by participation in Mass through the internet, and the recitation of the Creed, the Our Father, and a "pious invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters."

To receive the indulgence, always under the usual conditions, Catholics not sick with COVID-19 may offer at least a half hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or a half hour of prayer with scripture, or the recitation of the rosary or chaplet of divine mercy "to implore from the Almighty God an end to the epidemic, relief for those who are suffering, and eternal salvation of those whom the Lord has called to himself."

The indulgence is granted, the decree stated, “so that all those who suffer because of COVID-19, in the very mystery of this suffering, can rediscover ‘the same redemptive suffering of Christ.’”

“Be glad in hope, constant in tribulation, persevering in prayer’ (Rom 12:12). The words written by Saint Paul to the Church of Rome resonate throughout the history of the Church and guide the judgment of the faithful in the face of every suffering, disease and calamity,” the March 20 announcement stated.

It explained that the coronavirus, which threatens humanity, has altered people’s lives by bringing fear, uncertainty, and widespread physical and moral suffering.

“The Church, following the example of her Divine Master, has always had assistance to the sick at heart,” the decree said.

The document quoted St. Pope John Paul II, who wrote in *Salvifici Doloris* that the value of human suffering “is supernatural, because it is rooted in the divine mystery of the redemption of the world, and it is also profoundly human, because in it man finds himself, his very humanity, his very dignity, his very mission.” Pope Francis too, it noted, has invited constant prayer for those sick with COVID-19.

The decree said “the Church is praying for those who find it impossible to receive the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum, entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the communion of saints.”

“The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and of the Church, Health of the Sick and Help of Christians, our Advocate, would like to come to the aid of a suffering humanity, driving back from us the evil of this pandemic and obtaining all the good necessary for our salvation and sanctification,” the document concluded.

And Finally, “Al Final...”

Check out these resources for every age and way of life during this COVID precaution and crisis reaction. A special thanks to the initiative of the Catholic Bishops of the United States for ministering to Hispanics called the Fifth Encuentro for all of these excellent resources: <https://vencuentro.org/resources-for-ministry-during-covid-19-outbreak/> . We also continue to pay for the www.Formed.org resources and continue to recommend www.wordonfire.org and www.chastity.com for further insight and Catholic thought on contemporary issues.

The next issue of this newsletter will be published about two months from now. Special thanks to Sue Kramer for her dedication in doing this! To suggest an article or publication idea, e-mail Father Chris at czerucha@stbernardstmary.org.

We are working on our digital presence and getting our Facebook pages to one each and our You Tube channel to “St. Bernard St. Mary” versus “KingdomView83.” We are able to host videos at least on St. Bernard’s website, maybe St. Mary’s too. It’s a (necessary) work in progress!

Pray for the University of Akron (U of A) and Stark State students who went back to classes this week! As the rest of their semester will be online, the Newman Center will continue to offer many things online too. It should make for an interesting annual John Paul II Night of The Arts if nothing else! ☺

We are the Church! See you in church, Church! – Fr. Chris

*Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.*