



SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
Roman Catholic Church

*...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

November 17, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

Last weekend Fr. Marroquin and I gathered for a retreat with the Parish Council, Finance Council and staff. We spent our time celebrating the Eucharist, in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and reflecting upon the mission of the Church and how we faithfully pursue it in the mission of our parish. Together we experienced the presence of God in Himself and in one another. Our vision is to extend this experience throughout the remainder of this year and the year to come.

I hope that you have had an opportunity to see our Parish Organizational Chart 2018. It is always available on our website. (www.stmichaelsilverspring.org) Organizationally we are divided into six Areas of Vitality; Worship, Education, Service, Community, Administration/Stewardship and Vocations. Each member of the Parish Council serves in one or more of these. Every parish organization and ministry is listed in one of these vitalities. Additionally, we began last year to study and apply the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to these vitalities. These Principles are, Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community and Participation; Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; The Dignity of Work and the Right of Workers; Solidarity; and Care for God's Creation (cf. https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/17us495_cst_handout-adult_en-digital.pdf).

Now, I ask for your help and assistance in applying these principles to our vitalities and discerning a continued path forward for our parish that includes everyone. Soon the heads of each vitality will convene meetings to explore and pursue this path. My hope is that all of us will discern that these principles touch our lives in multiple ways. I also hope that we will all find our passion and offer our gifts to God for the good of the Church, now.

Please join me in an exuberant prayer to God that we will more and more become a parish community enflamed with passion for the things of God and the good of all people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino

Pastor

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