

7 June 2020

Dear St. Charles Parishioner:

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. Theologians tell us that we can approach an understanding of the Trinity in two ways: one, is to try to comprehend *who God is*, the mystery of Three Persons in One God. The second approach is to consider *what God does*.

The oldest science is astronomy. The ancients studied the movements of the moon, sun, and stars. Even with primitive instruments, they made many accurate predictions and outstanding discoveries. So we first tried to understand that which was farthest away.

The newest science is psychology; that is the study of what is closest to us: ourselves. There are dozens of “theories of personality.” No one theory seems to fully explain “what makes us tick.” If we cannot capture the inner being of ourselves, how could we presume to capture the essence of the Almighty? A great saint once described the Trinity in this way: The love between the Father and the Son is so great that it is another person, the Holy Spirit. We are on much firmer ground when we seek to discover *what God does* rather than *who God is*.

Father Louis Thomas came to us three years ago after his four year assignment at St Francis de Sales Parish in Akron. His good humor, down-to-earth manner, precise homilies, and “short Masses” made him a favorite. He is particularly popular with the day school kids: “Father Lou, Father Lou” is their usual chant! Father Lou's priestly qualities got him recognized and he has been appointed pastor of St Andrew Parish in Norton, Summit County, effective Monday, June 15. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we cannot offer the traditional farewell reception. However, there are envelopes in the pews if you would like to send some words of appreciation or to offer a parting gift.

Last Wednesday morning I attended a workshop and met our new priest, the soon-to-be **Father Joshua Cochrac** (pronounced “Core rack”). The scheduled May priesthood ordination was postponed, due to the Coronavirus, until Saturday, August 1. Father Josh will report to us 72 hours later, on Tuesday, August 4. (Fittingly, that is the feastday of St John Vianney, patron of parish priests!) I enjoyed our time together on Wednesday. Father Josh is friendly, outgoing, and anxious to get to work. He tells me he is most happy to be assigned to St Charles Borromeo. So we get to “break in” another newly-ordained. I look forward to working with him. More details about Father Joshua Cochrac in the weeks to come.

I am sorry to report that Father Anselm is dealing with some health issues that have limited his mobility. He tells me that he cannot return to St Charles at this time. Fr Anselm has some surgery scheduled that may help. I assured him that he will be most welcome to return when he feels up to it. In the meantime, if you would like to send a note or a word of encouragement, here's the address:

Father Anselm Zupka OSB
c/o St Andrew Abbey
10510 Buckeye Road
Cleveland OH 44104

So from June 16 to August 3, just Father Chris and I will be “holding down the fort” at St Charles.

Five years ago, **Pope Francis** penned an encyclical entitled “Laudato Si,” reflecting on our care for our common home—this world. There will be a virtual presentation and discussion of “Laudato Si.” Access it with your computer or by telephone. There will be two sessions, Thursday, June 18, 9:00 to 10:30 am and repeated that evening 6:30 to 8:00pm. Second session, Thursday, June 25, 9:00 to 10:30am and repeated the same day, 6:30 to 8:00pm. Contact Cindy Zalek at the Parish Office for details, 440-884-3030.

Thanks for all the kind words supporting this Summer's planned “two mailing” Grand Raffle. The first mailing is scheduled for June 15 and the second mailing for mid-July. In addition to the eight weekly \$500 Seller's Appreciation drawings, we will add a Special Drawing for Sellers of all tickets in both mailings. Details in the weeks ahead!

Just a reminder, the **Parish Office** is now open **Monday to Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm** and on **Sunday 8:00am to 1:00pm**.

The Offertory total for May 31 was \$32,468.82. St Charles Borromeo Parish is blessed by your continued generosity.

