

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – OCTOBER 25, 2020

## **Dear Parishioners and Families,**

Today's bulletin carries small sections from the second chapter of the Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. Pope Francis has us re-read the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The readings in today's service follow in this vein. Exodus proclaims "You shall not molest or suppress an alien for you were once aliens yourselves in the land Egypt." In the gospel Jesus proclaims "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

I invite you to read the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and then review the excerpts from chapter two of the Pope's Encyclical. The deepest question is always: "Who is my neighbor?"

## **A Coordinated Series of Improvements**

The Suffield, Randolph, Atwater Food Shelf Group and St. Joseph Parish are moving forward on a coordinated series of projects. At this point the projects are in architects' hands planning new structures. The moving force was a necessity to retire the building on the western edge of our property that contained the Food Shelf, storage, and space for two of our major fundraisers.

The Food Shelf is moving to a new building adjacent to the Knights of Columbus Center. The parish supports this and contributed a \$5,000 gift to their financial campaign. This will be an improvement both in space and facilities for the Food Shelf.

The parish has just received the permit to build the storage building behind the current maintenance building. This addresses a long term need for festival material, school storage, and church items. The Diocese has also given the permission to spend.

The third construction is in the hands of the architect for what we call the **Thank You Center**. This building will have an electrical room that will combine and upgrade our electrical service. It will also have restrooms needed for our children when they are outside. Finally, this will contain a cooking center that will certainly be used by the Festival, the Fish Frys, and expand our operation into Home Economics for the school.

There is hope to have the building under roof soon so they can be completed interiorly during our difficult weather. Once all the material is moved out of the building on our western edge, this will be taken down. These projects have been reviewed and approved by the Diocese with support from our Parish Council and Finance Committee.

## **Fall Leaves and a Sense of Duty**

Our deciduous trees are now preparing for winter by dropping their leaves. One can pick up the leaves day by day as they fall or one can leave these colored "messengers" on the ground, the sign of God's beauty and the season of fall. After talking with Mary Jane Kline, the leaves stay on the ground to enjoy until most have fallen.

When the time comes, we hope to engage those children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in a major leaf clean-up. Raking leaves and piling leaves as a parish family are a great group endeavor. We need these activities to mold us more and more together.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
October 25, 2020