

NOTES FROM FR. SEÁN

January 17, 2021

In Today's Gospel

Last week we celebrated the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. John testified that Jesus is the Son of God. (*cf.* Jn 1:34) In today's gospel, John sees Jesus and proclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God." (Jn 1:36) It is not surprising that the disciples to whom John was speaking, Andrew, and possibly John the Evangelist, were among the first disciples of Jesus. Andrew immediately goes to get his brother Simon to tell him the good news "we found the Messiah." (Jn 1:41b)

Although this was good news, Simon and Andrew, James and John did not drop everything to follow Jesus right away; that would come in time. They would respond to the call of Jesus when he called each of them by name. In the gospel, Jesus called his disciples by name, he continues to call each of us by name.

Pray for Our Nation

On January 20th, Joe Biden will become the president of the United States. This comes at the end of what is perhaps one of the most contentious presidential elections in our nation's history. Not since the election of Abraham Lincoln have we seen our nation so divided.

We must not give in to the hatred of division. We must pray for our nation and pray for each other. St. Paul exhorts us to pray not only for ourselves, but for those in authority: "First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity." (1 Tim 2:1-2) He reminds us that "there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established by God." (Rom 13:1) Pray for our country. Pray for those in authority and pray for Joe Biden.

The Legacy of a Dream

Tomorrow, we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. To many, Dr. King was a controversial figure. That controversy arose from their inability to overcome their bigotry and prejudice, the hate in their hearts. Dr. King's life was dedicated to ending this hatred; this should not be controversial.

Dr. King opposed injustice, but he did not hate those whom he opposed. He had a dream that one day the "sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." That one day, "little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers." I would love to say that today his legacy is one dream fulfilled, sadly I cannot. While some of his dreams have come to fulfillment, many are still lacking. We must not give up on those dreams. We must continue to work toward justice and equality for all.

Faith Formation Update

On January 11th, the school board for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools voted on a return to school plan. They voted to return to school with a hybrid model beginning on March 1st. With the WWCS plan now in place, we can now start planning to resume in-person Faith Formation classes. We will resume in-person Faith Formation on Monday, March 1st. We will take all necessary precautions to reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19.

We will conduct screenings before entry to the building, all students will be required to wear masks, social distancing will be required, and there will be plenty of hand sanitizer to go around. I look forward to having our children return to class—when it can be done safely. We will send out updates as we have them. If you have any questions, please contact either me, Mr. Paul Dzieblowski, or your child's teacher.

View this full bulletin on the *BULLETIN* tab on our webpage.