

NOTES FROM FR. SEÁN

January 24, 2021

In Today's Gospel

Last week, as Jesus approached, we heard John the Baptist proclaim, "Behold, the Lamb of God." (Jn 1:36b) With that proclamation, two of John's disciples followed Jesus. They begin to look into whom Jesus was. Andrew even went to find his brother, Simon Peter, to tell him that they have found the Messiah. Though they had started to believe in Jesus, they were not ready to commit their lives to him.

In this week's gospel, Jesus approaches these men again. This time after he calls Andrew and Simon, James and John also follow him. At this call, "they abandoned their nets and followed him." (Mk 1:18) At their first meeting, these men were not ready to drop everything to follow Jesus but Jesus continued to seek them out, and when they were ready, he called them. Jesus continues to seek us out as well. If you hear the call of Jesus in your life, open your hearts to him, received his call, and follow him.

March for Life

Last Friday, we remembered the tragic anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized the murder of children in their mothers' wombs. Based on figures from the Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion advocacy group, since 1973, over 64 million children have lost their lives due to abortion. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people brave the January weather to go to Washington DC to participate in the March for Life to protest this travesty. More than just a protest, this celebration of life is the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world.

Although the March for Life will take place this year, it will differ from years past. The March for Life is typically held on the Friday closest to January 22, the date the Roe v. Wade decision was handed down. Because of its proximity to the presidential inauguration, it was decided early on to hold this year's march on the following Friday, January 29th.

This is not a typical year. This year, due to COVID-19 and the recent violence in our nation's capital, the organizers have changed the format of the March for Life. This format change will benefit those of us who would like to participate in the march but cannot travel to Washington DC.

This year the marchers in Washington DC will be limited to small groups of pro-life leaders from around the nation. These leaders will represent pro-life Americans everywhere who, each in their own unique ways, work to make abortion unthinkable and build a culture where every human life is valued and protected. The rest of us will be participating in the march virtually.

The March for Life will be livestreamed this year. We will be playing the livestream at St. Mary on Friday, January 29, beginning at 11 AM. If you cannot join us at St. Mary, you can join the livestream from your own home. To sign up to receive the livestream at home, go to <https://p2a.co/BIa5nXt>. Please join us as we celebrate life.

Academic Excellence

With online classes, hybrid classes, canceled classes, and whatever other changes that have been made this year, this has been a challenging school year for parents, teachers, and especially for students. The uncertainty of the 2020/21 school year has made it difficult for many students to get the full benefit of school this year.

Despite these difficulties, many students have risen to the challenges that this year has brought. They have not allowed these challenges to stop them from excelling in school. I recently received a letter from Mrs. Jessica Spearman, the principal at Divine Child High School, informing me that eight students from St. Mary have earned honors status for the first semester at DC. These students are:

Jamie Rosalie Butler
Gabrielle Cventanoski
Luke Dajos

Steven Lorenz
James Petersen
Manuel T. Reyes

Ira Velasco
Dylan Yanit

Congratulations! Your hard work and commitment are an inspiration to us all.

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