

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER ... August 29, 2021

NEW Parish Picture Directory ... at the Parish Council meeting on August 12, 2021, it was decided that we would begin working with **Unique Church Solutions** (a Picture Directory Company from Mansfield Ohio) to produce a Parish Picture Directory for our Parishes. We have tentatively scheduled them to come to take pictures in November (tentative dates are: Nov. 18-20 and Nov. 25-26). Pictures will be taken at both St. Mary Parish Hall and St. Joseph Parish Hall. Specific locations, days and times, will be available later. Please plan to be a part of our Parish Picture Directory.

Anyone interested in History?? ... Thank you to those who gathered on Saturday, August 14 with Ron Sack to share your knowledge and memories and also pictures and historical items with Ron and the rest of us gathered there. If anyone has other information that might be helpful to Ron and Chase as they work on their book, please contact Father Mark Seiker or Ron Sack. Especially if anyone knows anything about the old St. Genevieve Parish in northern Hamilton County. I also find it interesting to learn the history of a Parish. Knowing how the faith of our ancestors and predecessors was lived out in practical and historical ways, can be a great encouragement to us to live our Faith today!

Thank You ... Parish Potluck Welcome Meal ...

to all those who helped with the organizing, setting up, coordinating the games, serving the food, and cleaning up afterwards. Especially thanks to all who came to welcome me and others. It was good to meet you again, and to hear a little more about each of you. It was good to have persons from both Parishes participate.

I also encourage you to visit (*after Mass in the Hall or outside*) with people who come to participate in Saturday or Sunday Mass, who you do not recognize. Ask God for His grace to gently and lovingly introduce yourself to them, perhaps saying something like: "HI, I am [*insert your first & last name*], I don't remember if we have met before." You might volunteer information about yourself [*this is my husband / my wife; or these are our children; or I am recently widowed; or I work at ??business??*]. When **WE take the initiative** and **offer some information about ourselves to others**, other people often will respond by sharing information about themselves, and we can get to know each other and we might find that we have a number of things in common with them.

WE PRAY AT MASS ... "O My God, in this chalice I place my heart & the heart of ____, to the end & desire that all the prayers & benedictions which are pronounced over the chalice may be pronounced over our hearts & that by the consecration whereby this wine is changed into Thy Precious Blood, our hearts may be changed into perfect love of Thee. Dear Lord, say the transforming word over my soul this morning in all the Masses celebrated throughout the whole world until the end of time, as You say it over the bread & wine. See my heart & the hearts of all I love on the paten there awaiting Your creative Word. Change them from what they are to what You would have them be."

Religious training of our youth is essential ...

Parents are the first teachers of their children. This is an axiom which imposes grave obligations on them. To fulfill this task, parents are entitled to the assistance of the Church. To this end generous people in our parish dedicate themselves to teaching in our CCD program and the Godteens Program, and each week conduct religious education classes for our children. Since very little formal education is normally given in the homes, it seems that parents have a grave obligation to enroll their children in our CCD program & Godteens program. Because the structure of CCD is systematic in approach, the children must be there for every session if they are to learn well. Be assured that our CCD program is well organized & effective.

Sometimes parents bring their children to CCD but fail to attend Sunday Mass. This gives our children a terribly "mixed signal" and almost undoes all that the children are taught in classes. The first three commandments of God imply that our first obligation to God is to offer Him worship. Christ commanded that we do this by making remembrance of Him in the Mass. Please parents! Give your children a chance not only to know about God, but also to experience His love as we pray and worship Him on Sundays.

It was good to meet and visit with some of the parents who came to the Parents CCD Meeting on Wednesday evening. I reminded the parents of the words [of the Church] that they heard on the day of their marriage and on the day of the Baptism of their child. Parents are the first educators of their children in the ways of faith. Our Parish [the local Church] is here to assist parents in any way we can.

RCIA Classes ... Fr. Mark Seiker will be leading an RCIA process (Inquiry class in the Faith) **beginning Sept. 13, 2021** until a few weeks after Easter (mid May 2022). After visiting with the Parish Council and checking schedules, it has been decided that RCIA Classes will be held on **Mondays (beginning September 13, 2021) in the Parish Hall from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.** These classes are open to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. **For Catholics, it is a good opportunity to learn more about your faith.** If you are interested call the Rectory or see Father Mark Seiker. Begin praying and thinking about persons that you want to invite to study our faith with you. Our faith is to be treasured, preserved, and lived, but it is also to be shared ... share your faith with a friend by coming with your friend to these RCIA classes. **It would be great to have a Full Hall!**

NEW VACUUMS ... Two (*one for St. Mary Church & Hall, and one for St. Joseph Church & Hall*) new commercial Vacuums have been ordered through Catholic Purchasing Services. The Vacuums are Windsor Versamatic HEPA 18 Dual Motor Upright Vacuums, at of total cost of \$1,926.61 [which includes \$163.93 shipping for both].