

Dear Friends,

I pen this article on a rainy Sunday evening following a grace-filled weekend for our parish. The Acts of the Apostles recounts the events of the early Church which grew in number. Today, All Saints Parish witnessed three baptisms as well as a reception into full communion with the Catholic Church. Both are visible signs that the Easter faith is here with us. There are more of each to come in the next few weeks, so please pray for those families who will be having a child baptized and for those who are preparing for initiation into the Catholic faith.

I just returned from the last youth group of the school year. On this occasion we thanked and bid farewell to Laretta Beale who will conclude her time as Youth Minister at All Saints on May 31. The Sunday evening youth group functions as an extension of the Sunday Eucharist that the Church calls us to celebrate. These sessions have helped our young people grow in holiness and deepen their sense of the Catholic faith. Laretta will be greatly missed by our young people, core team, and most especially, me. Please note, the parish has planned a farewell reception for Laretta on Sunday, June 9, after the 11:30am Mass in the ASA gymnasium.

It is now time to announce that we have hired a Director of Faith Formation for All Saints Parish. Mike Denz will officially begin this position on Monday, May 13. It is a blessing that Mike and Laretta's time can overlap to provide continuity. Mike has expressed a particular interest in the youth ministry, and brings a passion for adult faith formation and RCIA. There will be more to come from Mike himself as he becomes acclimated to the parish and the position. A proper welcome for him will be held at a later date.

Now to focus on Holy Orders. There are three degrees to Holy Orders: deacon, priest, bishop. Some deacons (like Deacon Jim and Deacon Ray) are permanent deacons. This means they declared their intention to a diocese and bishop to be ordained to this state. Others are transitional deacons which means they will be ordained to the order of priest. On May 25, one of our own will be ordained a transitional deacon, one who is en route to the priesthood. Joseph Martuscello, a native of Corning and a parishioner of Ss. Maria and Isidore will receive holy orders to the diaconate on this day. Priests must be ordained to the diaconate at least six months prior to anticipated ordination to the priesthood. Joe will spend his last year of studies at St. John's Seminary in Boston, MA where he will complete his fourth year of theology prior to graduating with a Master of Divinity. After that, Bishop Matano will give him his first assignment as a priest. Please pray for him and his family as he prepares for this important moment in his and the local church's life.

Many ask how are bishops chosen? This could be an article of greater length, but in short, bishops are chosen from the order of priests and are ordained to the episcopate. Our true pastor is Bishop Matano who, like all bishops, needs help caring for the people in his diocese. The three-fold nature of the priesthood, to teach, govern, and sanctify, is known as the triple munera. These are the most important functions of the priesthood.

Once a year, the priests of the diocese gather together for a time of renewal at a priests' convocation. This year's site is Corning's Radisson Hotel. On Tuesday, May 14 at 5:00pm, the priests of the Diocese of Rochester will gather here at St. Mary's Church to concelebrate Holy Mass with Bishop Matano. This Mass is open to the public; I invite and encourage all parishioners to attend. I ask this as way for you to support our bishop and priests who will greatly appreciate your presence at worship with us. In recent months, the turmoil of scandal has brought embarrassment and shame to the Church and the priesthood. I pray this will be lifted as the Church continues to work toward the necessary steps for healing for those who have been victims of abuse. Priests are supposed to heal, be sources of trust and truth, and to serve as an example of the Christian life and as a witness of faith. When that has been violated and betrayed, it seems almost impossible to forgive or overcome. All of us need to pray for the victims and for our priests. Please plan on attending if you can.

Last week, I had a chance to visit with the third and fourth graders about vocations. I was pleased to hear they associate vocation with personality traits rooted in the sacred scriptures, the origin of all vocations. Vocations are to be cultivated in young people, who desire to serve in some specific capacity for the sake of the kingdom. I have said before and will continue to state: the cultivation of vocations from our parish for the Church must remain a priority. We have many good things happening with vocations, among other things, here at All Saints. Please, for the sake of our Church, encourage and pray for vocations from our very pews.

them eternal life, and they shall never perish." - Jn 10:27-28b

In Christ,
Fr. Jones

"Mis ovejas escuchan mi voz; yo las conozco y ellas me siguen.
Yo les doy la vida eterna y no perecerán jamás". - Jn 10, 27-28