



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As the 2020 Calendar year continues to unfold, so too does the strangeness and the sadness of our times. If there's one word that summarizes the experience of this year, I would choose the word "absence". Throughout the year, we have experienced an absence. With September here, the absence is felt this

weekend in the cancelled Mushroom Festival, the lack of school busses on the road, the absence of children in schools or people in the pews. While some of this is understandable, we cannot live in absence. As humans, we live and grow only in relationship and we live and grow well only in presence.

So in the absence of all the normal external things that mark this time of year, I invite us all to find ways to appreciate and engage the reality of presence: the presence of one another, the presence of family, friends and God. You see, there is a Substance to our faith, not an absence. And in this time when we are experiencing so much absence, it is very important for us to engage that substance. How?? Allow for a few suggestions:

- 1) Pick up a good book. Matthew Kelly's REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM or the CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH are good ones. In the catechism, you will find the substance of our faith, what we believe. In Kelly's book, you will find how that substance forms life.
- 2) Join a Church Group to volunteer or learn. Put yourself in the presence of other people. Serve.
- 3) Speak kind words even to strangers. Much of our day-to-day life has us encountering other people -- cashiers, service people, secretaries. Speaking kind words to others helps to evoke presences, helps us to see the other as person.
- 4) There's an expression that familiarity breeds contempt. There is some truth to that and sadly some of the people that we can contempt the most is our family: the people that we live with, the people we are closest to. Train yourself to see and appreciate the family that God gave you. Familiarity can breed a lot of amazement and gratitude as well.
- 5) Finally, pray. Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God. It is all about placing ourselves in His Presence. Science is proving that those who pray well, live well; and those who live well, pray well.

Here at St. Patrick, we continue to be present to one another, to God and to our wider community. This is our parish mission. We are open and operating even in 2020! I welcome your presence and pray that it will off-set the absence of our days.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



The Knights of Columbus will be holding the annual **Change for Life Campaign during the month of October**. 100% of all donations is given to charities in support of pro-life causes.

The annual amounts raised have exceeded \$4,000 and have gone to organizations such as Birthright, Rachel's Vineyard and Sisters of Life. In light of the current situation with coronavirus, the Knights of Columbus are thoughtfully planning a variety of ways for parishioners to donate to this worthy cause. Start gathering that loose change and stay tuned for more details. 236

Reach More Small Groups-St. Patrick's

St. Patrick's Reach More Small Group Leaders are preparing for a spirit filled fall season. Small Group registration will open mid-September and small groups will begin meeting the week of October 11, 2020. Stay connected through Flock-note, the Parish Bulletin and our Parish Website for more details.