

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MAY 21, 2017

Dear Families and Parishioners,

This week beginning on Wednesday we will embark on a Mission. The Mission, given by Fr. Ray Collins, C.Ss. R., is really a reflection upon our heritage and our continued Communion with those who have gone before us. We shall be recalling the 10 days that the future St. John Neumann spent at this parish. Fr. Collins will try to weave in some of the history of this Saint with our current challenges and opportunities today. A Mission is a time of reflection. A believer is one who remembers, thanks God, and journeys forward.

The other historic part is our joining with St. Peter of the Fields in this Mission. In 1841 St. Peter of the Fields had not yet begun. It was 25 years away before St. Peter of the Fields began. This year they are celebrating the 150th anniversary of their parish. A review of their parish roster and ours shows clearly we are the same stock. There is a deep pleasure for both Fr. Dave and myself to have this joint mission focused on the Saint who assisted us 176 years ago.

I ask you to support this Mission, invite others to come and listen to Fr. Ray Collins. He is a Redemptorist priest who is in charge of the Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia. The Lord invites you to his home here at St. Joseph and St. Peter of the Fields. I hope you will accept his invitation on Wednesday and Thursday at St. Joseph and then again on Friday at St. Peter of the Fields. At St. Peter of the Fields on Friday we will have the special privilege of participating in the Byzantine Liturgy led by Fr. Misbrenner and with a choir from a Byzantine Church. This will bring you some acquaintance with the Eastern Catholic Church and its richness.

St. Joseph School

Our school has already 120 students signed up to attend next academic year. While the public schools are struggling to maintain a status quo, we are pursuing a growth in our education. We expect to enroll at least 130 students, 25 more than last year.

Next year we will have a trip for all our grade school children to COSI in Columbus. We have other field trips planned. We have a healthy food program that is not diminishing but rather increasing. There is free after school tutoring. There is music, physical education, kids script, theater, and a host of other things.

This Friday Dontty Lakina spoke to an assembly of students regarding Ghana, his home country. But more than that, he demonstrated to them one of his talents, African drumming. We are also so pleased that so many of the events that we hold are pictured in our Sunday bulletin. St. Joseph School and pre-school are alive, growing, and exciting.

Physical Developments on Our Campus

The Church office is now renovated and functioning. Drop in and take a look. The living room on the east side of the building has been stripped of its rug and the wood finisher began his work Thursday. The Principal and I are looking at impact items that move the school forward. Students from 4th grade to 7th grade will each receive a Chrome Book. We are considering some additional teacher aids such as Prometheans, which are advanced smart boards.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
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