

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MAY 28, 2017

Dear Families and Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus as he returns to the Kingdom of Heaven, the Kingdom of his Father. Jesus is the pathfinder for us, **the way** to the Kingdom of Heaven. It is necessary for Jesus to return to the Kingdom of Heaven to complete the journey. He is the prototype for us. He promised us that the Kingdom of Heaven is nigh and if he did not return, we would question the accuracy of his promise. In the Ascension, Jesus enters again the Kingdom of Heaven as the pledge to us of our destination if we follow him on **the way**.

The final instructions to the Apostles were to go and teach all nations. On the other hand, Jesus tells them that he is leaving them. Yet the Apostles return to the Upper Room rejoicing and waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. How does one explain the Apostles' rejoicing on the departure of Jesus who is their leader? I leave you to ponder. Part of the answer must be a confidence of the Apostles that Jesus would not leave them and yet he appears to be going away. Another part of the answer must be the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The most important element of the Ascension for me is the completion of the Lord's promise that he is going to prepare a place for us.

The Mission by Fr. Ray Collins, C.Ss. R.

I am writing this note prior to the beginning of the Mission because we have to put this issue of the bulletin to print before the Mission ends. I simply wanted to say thank you to all the parishioners who supported this Mission with their presence. This was an historic mission as we recalled the presence of John Neumann who later became the Bishop of Philadelphia and Sainted by the Catholic Church. In preparation for this mission we called upon the three and a half thousand people buried in our cemetery and St. John Neumann to pray for us. May God continue to bless you through the inspiration of this mission.

St. Joseph School

We now show an enrollment of 125 students who are registered with another 7 or 8 certainties. Yesterday I wrote a note to our Bishop indicating why we were advancing so positively. I gave him 10 points. We are stressing superior education and substantiating it by using the Iowa Test Scores. Also we are supported by the Ohio EdChoice Program, small classes under 20, the presence and hiring of vibrant teachers, physical improvements in our facilities, the Food Across the Curriculum Program, field trips to theater, the Great Lakes Science Center, COSI, and a host of others, and the so-so state of our local public schools measured by the State report Card.

There is a thought by some that more money and new buildings will bring superior education. Unfortunately, superior education blended with faith does not come from more money or levies. Such education blended with faith comes from dedicated and superior teachers and the ever present vision of preparing students in a superior mode for high school and college. Mediocrity will not work. People strive, pay, and work for excellence. That is St. Joseph Pre-school and School.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
May 28, 2017