

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JULY 23, 2017

## **Dear Families and Parishioners,**

Our world is made up of good plants mixed with weeds. We rejoice in the flowers and the good crops. The weeds receive much less adulation. This parable exhibits God's patience.

Thank God. Sometimes we are the weeds. God does not pull us up but waits. Some weeds do become gracious flowers. I think of dandelions. We try to get them out of our grass. Then a child comes along, sees the pretty blooms, picks a bouquet, and takes them to mother. He offers them and says, "Mommy, I love you." Those so called weeds now become more precious than the most expensive orchids. Matthew 13: 24-30.

One lesson from this parable then is clear. Try to exhibit God's patience, even with the weeds. Weeds may be our cross. "Take up your cross and follow me". When we are weeds, we are someone's other cross and we hope that they will be patient with us.

## **Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith**

Several people have approached me recently with an interest in the Catholic Faith and possibly becoming Catholic. We shall begin another program on Immigration by mid-September. The four sessions of this directed reading course are done on Saturday morning from 10:30 AM to 12:00 noon with 2 or 3 weeks in between each session.

The directed reading course, after the manner of college courses, does not require you to become Catholic. If you are living with a Catholic, it might help you understand your spouse better. This course is completed prior to Thanksgiving and if a person desires to enter the Church, it is done in connection with the Thanksgiving holidays. Nothing is required publically. The most important element is understanding how God is working in your life and directing you. My role is like a Sherpa guide in the mountains of Nepal.

If you are interested or you have spoken to me, I would ask you to call Sandy at the office and leave your name and address. You do not have to be a member of the parish to partake in this directed reading course.

## **Update On Our School**

The enrollment continues to climb. It appears that we may have 35 more students than we had last year. This is so heartening. Our whole endeavor is to be that rural school of exceptional excellence blended with our Faith.

This year we will be giving Chrome Books to grade 4, 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup>. We will have field trips that are already included in the tuition. The most exciting one might be our trip to Columbus to visit the Center Of Science and Industry (COSI). Our Food Program, Eating Across the Curriculum, is also part of the tuition and so many people have told me about the good results with their children. The children are becoming less fussy, but healthy eaters.

I have been deeply impressed with the reading ability of some of our older students. You have seen this even in our Church. This year I will work with students in the upper grades teaching them elocution. Many people have remarked how much better the reading has become in the last 5 years at our liturgies. I so want the children involved in liturgical presentation and proclaiming before a crowd.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
July 23, 2017