

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – OCTOBER 7, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

Pope Francis speaks in his exhortation, The Joy of Love, and reflects on the Synod of the Family in the very first statement of his Exhortation. It reads:

“The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the church. As the Synod fathers noted, for all the many signs of crisis in the institution of marriage, ‘The desire to marry and form a family remains vibrant, especially among young people, and this is an inspiration to the Church’.”

Bishop George Murry has enjoined his priests to seek out couples who have not received the Sacrament of Marriage. It is not possible for me to describe all the variations and reasons why a husband and wife may not have yet received this Sacrament. Each sacrament is a special bonding of God with the person receiving the sacrament. In the case of matrimony, God bonds with husband and wife as a unifying, forgiving, and gracious companion.

There are multiple avenues of adding the marriage sacrament to your lives. The most important question is: Where are you with God and where is God with you? Can you advance with God and not simply stand static and hope? **I do not believe in transparency in dealing with married couples.** So much more can be done privately and quietly.

If one or the other of a couple want to speak with me privately, this is easy to arrange. If you want to speak with me as a couple, this is easy to arrange. There are all types of methods that I may use in helping you come to a sacramental marriage. These include simple validation, discernment, annulment, secret marriage, and just plain marriage. I take my lead from Pope Francis and Bishop Murry who encourage you to act in Faith: Ask the Lord to walk more fully with you, your family, and your loved ones.

St. Joseph Parish - - The Oasis of St. Joseph Village

The New York Times reported that Harvard University’s endowment in 2017 grew by 8.4%. Notre Dame and Stanford Universities increased by 12%. I asked our Portfolio Consultant, Vicki Kline, to state the return on our investments from 7/1/2017 through 6/30/2018. She reported that our percent gain for that period was 21.6%. Thank you Vicki Kline.

Our investments together with your generosity and outside gifts drive our improvements and reduce the deferred maintenance. Late this October we shall side the office and rectory building with Hardee Board at a cost of \$110,000. The current siding is falling off and in places you can look through the gaps directly to the outside.

The endowment for our cemetery has risen to over \$300,000 and helps ensure the beauty of the sacred resting places. The front entrance to the school is more attractive, more efficient, and safer for the children. The west wall of our church is now stabilized. All the plumbing on the third floor of the rectory is replaced and this preserves the renovation of the first floor offices from previous leakages. Your Finance Committee is doing a superlative job. Thank you for your continued generosity and gifts to our church and school.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
October 7, 2018