

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JULY 1, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

Today we listen as the Evangelist Mark recounts the story of a 12 year old daughter who dies. She is the daughter of Jarius, a synagogue official probably in the town of Capernaum. This reminds me of the story of the 12 year old Jesus who likewise brought his parents to great distress when they found him missing and did not know what to expect.

In the case of the 12 year old daughter, Jarius came to Jesus and begged for help. In distress do we approach Jesus and with faith ask him to help us and to cure us? Unfortunately, some people walk away and blame God for the event that troubles them. Others turn to God with faith knowing that the Lord can cure and overcome all obstacles. However, the Lord may do it in his own way since the Lord's ways are so beyond us and our ways. In the case of Jarius, Jesus took the lifeless hand of the child and said to her, "Arise!" That word arise is the word of Resurrection used even for Jesus after his death. The Lord says very clearly to us, "Have Faith and don't take flight. Arise!"

Confirmation

In today's bulletin you will see a letter concerning the Sacrament of Confirmation for youth of our parish and the beginning preparation. I ask you to read this carefully especially if one of your children or grandchild is eligible for Confirmation. **If our list is incomplete, please call Sandy.**

The understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in our life is important for every parishioner. I shall be speaking on this through several homilies. In addition, anyone of the parish is invited to meet with us on the two dates mentioned to share and learn. The Holy Spirit is a gift from the Father to us. Do not turn away from this grace but rather accept it with great thanksgiving.

Intinction

Recently I received a note from Bishop Murry indicating he would like to put off any decision on intinction until after he returns to his office on a full-time basis. Monsignor Siffrin sent a note to the priests that Bishop Murry is beginning his second round of chemotherapy. Our prayers are with the Bishop for a full recovery.

Immigration, Value of Diversity, and Good Food

Recently a new restaurant opened in the Brimfield Plaza at the far end. It is called Thai Monies. I have eaten there many times and thoroughly enjoyed the home cooking.

The restaurant is not Thai but much more Cambodian and Southeast Asian. It is a great mixture of tasty food including Cambodian fresh spring rolls, Panaeng curry, Thai crispy chicken, and others.

I have been privileged to travel throughout most of the world courtesy of U.S. Government Grants. The diversity of people is heartening and not a threat. Pope Francis leads our Church which is world-wide. Even as we enjoy the diversity in nature, let us also enjoy the diversity in human cultures.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
July 1, 2018