

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JULY 22, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

Last Sunday we heard the Gospel passage where Jesus sent his Apostles to the various villages and settlements to bring the good news. Today they reassemble and Jesus invites them to go away with him for a while and rest. Our parish and a host of workers engaged a similar mission. But in this case, the workers stayed here and they invited others from all over the community to join them for relaxation. I want to thank especially all the workers and the planners who made this festival in its 99th year so successful. The festival touches our broad community in an uplifting and joyous burst.

A gracious minister from one of our local parishes called me and wondered how we reach out to others to bring the Christian Faith. The Festival is certainly our major endeavor. The joy and the happiness on the faces of children, the proud parents, the many grandparents and so many others are a reflection of family. Family is a reflection of God. Pope St. John Paul II points out that the ultimate family is the Trinity with fatherhood, sonship, and the spirit of love which is the Holy Spirit.

Constantly Building and Improving

The school is preparing for the school year to begin in August. The teacher's lounge is very important. Think of the Lord's words to the Apostles, "Come aside and rest a while." The lounge gives them this momentary break from the classroom at lunchtime. We are in the process of totally renovating it with paint, new floor, cabinets, new chairs, and other appointments.

Miss Beth Frank has now left us and the principal's office is also receiving new a floor, paint, and other needed improvements.

The outside of the rectory /office building is faltering. The outside boarding is beginning to peel and requires major repair as well as painting. We are now seeking estimates on siding the entire building with cement board, replacing the windows on the second floor, and completing the plumbing on the second floor. The Finance Committee will discuss these matters at their meeting on July 26th.

Salaries For All Our Workers are Generally Low. Teachers' salaries are perhaps as much as 25% under the market price in public schools. Each year since I have been your administrator we have been able to give the teachers a raise equivalent to the cost of living increase. This year we are doing the same for all employees with a 2% raise plus a 1% addition.

I thank all of you as parishioners for the gracious support at Sunday Mass which helps us to pay and improve. We are also benefited from a beneficial stock market during my six years, many special gifts such as those coming from the Cafaro and Huth Foundaitons, spontaneous gifts of significant amounts from parishioners beyond their Sunday offerings, superior craftsmanship from parishioners with very reduced remunerations, and fundraisers such as the Festival, the Fall Auction, and the Fish Fry.

Together we are making this parish an emblem of graciousness, hard work, and God's favor.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
July 22, 2018