

THE WORKER

FALL 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

Fr. Jim Goerend

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I was back home to St. Lucas, visiting Mom and family a few days ago and noticed the leaves starting to change color on a couple of trees. Even during this strange and unsettling time of pandemic, some things, such as the changing of the seasons, continue to happen. As I write this article, it is the eve of the autumnal or fall equinox and while many of the usual things we have taken for granted in the past (community gatherings, family celebrations and the like) are uncertain in these next few weeks and months, there is one thing we as Catholic

Christians can be certain of - God's eternal gifts of love, grace, and mercy for each and every one of us. These gifts from God are gifts that cannot be earned or merited. They are freely given by God to strengthen us and provide us courage on this journey.



While we have uncertain times ahead of us we do not muddle through them alone. God has adopted each and every one of us, through the sacrament of baptism, into the Body of Christ. Jesus walks this journey of life with each one of us and gathers us together into the family of God. Together, with Jesus as our shepherd,

we will get there - to the promise of eternal life in union with the Father and the Son. As Jesus told us in Matthew's Gospel, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

And so, as this autumn season unfolds and the leaves on the trees begin to change color, keep in mind the gifts of love, grace, and mercy that flow from the goodness of God into our hearts and minds, the gifts that fill us and sustain us through good times and uncertain times. And know that every day I pray to the Lord for each and every one of you, the holy people of God!

With you a child of God.
For you a priest.

Fr. Jim

THE 11TH COMMANDMENT: "THOU SHALT NOT SING"

Dick Beaves

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Well OK, you are right. I didn't make any great trip up Mt. Sinai to collect the missing 11th Commandment. Instead, we are all on this journey that necessitates us to keep this inconvenience in order to remain safe. There is nobody that this is harder on than myself. I miss the weekly rehearsals with the music ministers and the joy that would inspire me as we sang on Sundays.

So why can't we sing, or perhaps better, why shouldn't we sing? The

real reason is for our well-being. Covid spreads through droplets in the air, and it has been shown that those droplets are projected farther and faster when we sing than when we speak EVEN if we are wearing masks.

What has been decided, to keep us safe and give us just some sung prayer, is to sing two of the acclamations. So since the first weekend of July, we've been singing the Alleluia before the Gospel and the Great Amen after the Eucharistic Prayer as an assembly. We are also using some instrumental music at those times when we previously had hymns. Unfortunately, this is probably going to continue until we can all be vaccinated.

When we get to the point that we can sing together we will certainly all

make a joyous noise that will resound throughout the heavens. In the meantime, please stay safe everyone. And thank you for your patience and your understanding



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Ann Sirianni

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Students enrolled in grades 1-5 Faith Formation are working with a new textbook series this year while studying at home and coming to class every other week. Our new series is called *Discover!* and uses the Bible as its main text. Each student received a bible along with a folder that contains the weekly lessons and a resource book. I chose this series because of the bible usage. Other religion books have bible stories in them, but the students are never encouraged to use the bible. Beginning this year, the students will learn how to look things up and read stories that go with each week's topic such as sacraments, prayer, or creation.

I also chose this series for its at-home usage because we are focused on keeping the students safe



while having some in class formation as well. Students in grades 1-3 come one week to the school building while grades 4 and 5 study at home; the following week grades 1-3 are at home and grades 4 and 5 are in the building.



Our Family Catechesis Workshops will continue this year beginning with "Getting Ready for All Saints Day." We have such wonderful role models in our saints and spending some extra time learning about them as a family is important. We'll offer this program three different times to keep everyone social distanced. All members of the parish are invited to come.

Finally, we'll offer Thanksgiving Learning Centers this year for Faith Formation families and Holy Family families on November 18 from 4:00-8:00pm in Martin Hall. We're excited to invite all families. I know students who attend the Holy Family schools have religion classes during their school day, but I think it's important to participate in some of the events in the parish that focus on faith as well.

TRUNK AND TREAT

We'll have our 2nd Annual Trunk and Treat party will be on Friday, October 30, at 6:30pm in the school parking lot. We invite all interested parishioners to decorate the trunks of their vehicles and hand out candy to the Trick or Treaters. Kids can wear costumes and go trick or treating around the vehicles. We'll give out prizes for the best costume and the best decorated trunk!



PET BLESSING

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who had a great love of all creation, especially animals, the parish will offer a Pet Blessing on Saturday, October 3, at 9:30am in the parish parking lot. You're invited to bring your dog, cat, gerbil, horse, etc. All creatures are important in the eyes of our Creator so it's our job to make sure they are well cared for and blessed. Please bring a non-perishable food item which will be shared with our local food pantry.



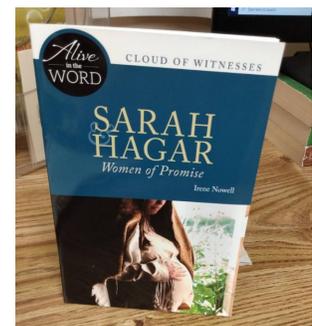
TREASURE TALKS

For the senior members of the parish who have attended the Treasure Luncheons in the last few years, we are still offering them this year minus the lunch. We're calling them Treasure Talks. Because of the virus, social distancing is important and sharing a meal does not adhere to the six feet apart suggestion. It's our hope in the future to once again enjoy lunch together, but for now we want to remain safe. Our first talk will be Tuesday, October 6, in Martin Hall from 10:30-11:30am. We'll spend some time getting to know our new pastor, Fr. Jim Goerend, learning some things you might not know about the rosary, and taking a survey of topics attendees find interesting. Please RSVP by calling Ann or Donna at 563-588-1433 or email Ann at a.sirianni@dbqarch.org



SCRIPTURE STUDY

All women of the parish who are interested in studying Scripture are invited to learn more about Sarah and Hagar, two very interesting characters from the Old Testament. Scripture Study meets for six weeks beginning on Wednesday, October 14, through Wednesday, November 18. We meet in the parish office building beginning at 12:45pm and ending by 2:00. For more information, contact Ann Sirianni in the Parish Office at 563-588-1433 or a.sirianni@dbqarch.org



UPDATE ON OUR SISTER PARISH IN HAITI

Deacon Bill Biver

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Fr. Paul Dorlean, pastor of our sister parish in Gonaives, Haiti, was delighted and so thankful for our disbursement of the \$23,167 needed to purchase the reverse osmosis purification equipment and materials to begin the construction of a water treatment center to serve his parishioners and others in the slums surrounding his rectory.

These funds were contributed by a number of SJTW parishioners, Fr. Tom McDermott who gave his monetary going away gifts from SJTW to the project, and three Rotary Clubs in SW Wisconsin. The Rotary efforts were coordinated by Brian Whisenant, a SJTW parishioner.

Fr. Paul is hoping to complete the construction in another 6-8 weeks. Having drinkable water is like an oasis in the desert for these Haitian

people who are suffering not only from COVID-19, but also political turmoil throughout the country, as well as violence in the streets, on top of growing day to day poverty everywhere. The water will be sold at 7 cents per gallon with the income to be used to provide for the ongoing maintenance and filters for the system.

Fr. Paul, in a recent e-mail, shared how our last \$3,000 monthly contribution enabled him to pay not only his parish and school expenses, but also to feed the school children and thirteen widows or widowers whose families were without any food.

As we look to the future, the Haiti Connection Team at SJTW is currently working to develop a network of individual donors and/or existing committees to more easily raise the amount needed to meet the monthly expenses of our sister parish and school. We believe that all of us prayerfully working together and making a small regular, ideally monthly, contribution will make the overall goal of \$3,000/mo. an easy one to attain. It is also our goal to



improve the communication from our parish to the parish in Haiti so everyone has a clearer idea of the good that we are doing.

In the meantime, please continue to lift up our Haitian brothers and sisters in prayer. They are very vulnerable, many are afraid, and they need us to help sustain their hope for a “new normal”, one simply free from the miserable conditions they are forced to face each and every day.

Contributions can always be dropped off in the Sunday collection or at the parish office. Just put them in an envelope clearly marked “Haiti Contribution”.

Thank you for your spiritual and financial support.

THE BELLS ARE RINGING

Jen Porter

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Have you noticed the bell at our church has been ringing? And what a beautiful sound it is! The story of how it came about to ring again is interesting. Many months before Covid, I asked what it would take to get the bells ringing again. I was met with discouragement due to the many thousands of dollars and time and logistical challenges it would take to make it happen.

I can't explain why I love to hear church bells; there is something welcoming, calming, drawing near

to Church, or God, that has always inspired me.

So, I talked to a few people about it and prayed. In July, we happened to have a lift on our property due to maintenance work on the school. I got a call from Building and Grounds Committee Member Mike Sisler who suggested we ask for permission to use the lift and check out the bell, as the lift was actually sitting very close to the bell tower. A funeral was taking place that morning. At the end of the funeral I heard the church bell ringing!

The team of Mike Sisler, our Maintenance person Jim Connolly, and Mel Sisler with A&G Electric, removed a very large bird's nest from the tower, did some adjusting and got the bell working again. Thus, we now hear the Angelus at noon and 6:00pm daily. So

far, we've spent zero dollars on this.

But we aren't quite in the clear: we need a new controller and minor construction to make sure the system is reliable. It may be done by the time you read this. The amount of money needed has turned out to be much less than we thought. In addition, a family generously came forward and offered to pay for the controller unit to keep the bells working. Thank you to the family of John and Helen Rodham, who wanted this to happen in memory of John Rodham. In the months I was praying, I had no idea that this family also wanted to hear the bells.

I recall a homily from Fr. Paul Attah-Nsiah who talked about the acronym “PUSH;” meaning, Pray Until Something Happens. Interesting...!

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FALL 2020

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STW

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PARISH FESTIVAL

2020 Parish Festival

October 25

- **To-Go Dinner** served from 11:45am-1:00pm
 - Chicken Dinner provided by The Moracco
 - \$10 for Adults, \$6 for Kids
 - *Please call the Parish Office to RSVP by Noon on October 23.*
- **Silent Auction** (online) from Noon to 4pm
- **Live Raffle Drawing** at 2pm

Raffle Prizes:

- 1st \$2000.00
- 2nd \$1000.00
- 3rd \$750.00
- 4th \$500.00
- 5th \$250.00

STW
**Parish
Festival**
NOW WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING!

LOOKING AHEAD

- Oct. 3:** Pet Blessing
- Oct. 6:** Treasure Talk
- Oct. 14:** Scripture Study
- Oct. 21:** Scripture Study
- Oct. 21/24/25:** Workshop: Getting Ready for All Saints
- Oct. 25:** Parish Festival
- Oct. 30:** Trunk and Treat
- Nov. 1:** All Saints Day
- Nov. 2:** All Souls Day
- Nov. 3:** Treasure Talk
- Nov. 4:** Scripture Study
- Nov. 7-8:** Celebration of Remembrance
- Nov. 11:** Scripture Study
- Nov. 14:** Peace & Forgiveness Retreat
- Nov. 18:** Scripture Study
- Nov. 18:** Thanksgiving Learning & Service Centers
- Nov. 22:** Feast of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
- Nov. 25-27:** Parish Office Closed
- Nov. 26:** Thanksgiving - 9:00am Mass
- Nov. 29:** Advent Begins
- Dec. 1:** Treasure Talk