

From the PA's Desk

### **Ascension of the Lord:**

In the late 1990's all but five dioceses in the United States decided to transfer the celebration of the Ascension from Thursday of the 6<sup>th</sup> week of Easter to the following Sunday. Therefore, the Ascension never falls on Thursday but on what was the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 28 this year.

### **2017 Graduates:**

All of those in the Parish who are graduating from high school or college this year are invited to join us for a special Baccalaureate Mass in June. Please call the office or talk to Mary Moomey and let us know who you are, so we can send you a special invitation and recognize you in our parish bulletin.

### **Parish Picture Directory:**

It has been six years since our last Parish Picture Directory, and it's time for a new one. Judi Degruise has volunteered to act as coordinator, which she also did for the last one. She will need others to assist her, so she might be asking you for some help, or you can talk to her if you want more information. Unlike previous directories, since we are all one parish now, the family photos and photos of our two churches can appear in one section. We will kick this project off formally in late August or early September.

### **Alpha this week: Does God Heal Today?**

#### **Talk summary:**

- God can and does heal us emotionally, spiritually, and sometimes physically in many ways, often through the events and people in our lives, and most powerfully through prayer and the powerful workings of the Holy Spirit.

### **Evangelization & Catechesis:**

Next year in addition to our ongoing evangelization programs, we will start something called **Whole Community Catechesis** once a month. Whole Community Catechesis is an opportunity for everyone in the parish to come together after the Sunday morning Mass to share in a breakfast together as a parish family, followed by an hour of faith formation for **everyone** in the parish. Children will go off with their age appropriate catechists, and I or another adult facilitator will lead an hour-long faith-sharing discussion on

an aspect of our Catholic faith and practices. **Whole Community Catechesis is for everyone: Young and old, those with families and children and those without, middle-aged and empty nesters, the married and the single.**

When we gather at Mass, we are never segregated into various age groups because that is not what the church is, but we are one family who gathers to worship and praise our God together. **Whole Community Catechesis** is an opportunity for the same dynamic to happen in our faith formation and learning environment. One month we might discuss a particular liturgical season like Advent, Lent, or Easter, and another month we might discuss something like All Souls and All Saints Day. I've facilitated Whole Community Catechesis in other parishes, and I think it's one of the best models of faith formation in the church today. Look for more information in the weeks ahead.

### **CSA:**

May is here, and it's time for the annual **Catholic Services Appeal**. This weekend we will begin our campaign and you should have received a letter from the diocese by now. Funds collected from the C.S.A. provide many valuable ministries and programs.

Who benefits from the C.S.A.? Let me share just a few examples: The C.S.A. subsidizes the education of future priests, deacons, and lay ministers for the Church through Seminaries and the Center for Ministry. The C.S.A. helps the needy and provides for outreach and evangelization. The C.S.A. aids Catholic education, R.C.I.A., and youth ministries. The C.S.A. funds diocesan offices that serve as resources for the parishes. If you or a loved one has received a marriage annulment, the costs were covered by the C.S.A. The Catholic Services Appeal does so much, and the diocese provides ministries and programs that are beyond the means of parishes.

Each parish has been assigned an annual target amount. Our 2017 St. Vincent de Paul Parish CSA goal is \$45,162. Every dollar that we raise above the target returns to our parish and we can use them to develop our future evangelization, whole community catechesis and youth ministry programs. Please be generous to the Catholic Services Appeal this year. Your annual pledge or gift is a blessing to the diocese, its parishes, and its people!

### **Remembering Those Who Have Died:**

As Christians, we keep those who have passed onto the next life close to us by visiting their graves; their final resting place. The Catholic Church designates a special day to remember the dead: All Souls Day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Memorial Day is the day that our nation has selected to primarily give honor to those who have died while in active duty in one of many military conflicts, or to honor veterans. Memorial day is also a day to remember anyone who has died, and parishes come together at "the parish cemetery" to pray for all those who have gone on to the next world which awaits us all. This year Geri Clark will lead the Memorial Services at St. Leo and St. Vincent Cemeteries, and Zachary Lobsinger will lead it at St. Patrick Cemetery. Consult the bulletin for exact time, and thank you to Geri and Zack for leading the community in prayer.