

Dear Partnering Parishioners,

October 11, 2020

The Next Generation Parish: I am happy to invite you into a pastoral initiative called "The Next Generation Parish" which offers the opportunity of creating communities of disciples, leaders, and missionaries for today and tomorrow. This pastoral initiative is approved by Archbishop Perez and directed by The Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI).

If you recall, back in March 2019, I asked you to take a survey called "The Disciple Maker Index survey." This survey gave a snapshot of our parishes and we wanted to move forward on a number of things it pointed out to us. Then COVID-19 hit and everything went into prevention mode. As we emerged from lockdown, CLI has been engaging pastors through zoom conferences to consider how we can move forward. Through their help, CLI has provided us with Leadership Consultants (Lori Tedjeske and Richara Krajewski) who will work with me and our staff in forming a team to facilitate a process for pastoral planning that can assist us in renewing our vision and mission, clarify and focus on both our current and future needs and develop three pastoral priorities and related goals as we strive for greater shared leadership, foster spiritual maturity, and celebrate our faith in vibrant Sunday liturgies and embrace a missionary impulse as modern day disciples.

Our Leadership Consultants will make a site visit to us on Sunday, October 18th - to experience our praying and worshipping communities and then to meet as many of you as possible, given the COVID restrictions. They want to meet with and interview through a combination of in person and virtual interviews the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Financial Council, Staff members, a number of parishioners and key ministry leaders, as well as a few people who have not felt comfortable returning to Mass or any person who has knowledge of the history of the parishes. Individual interviews can be about 30 minutes, Group interviews can be about 45-60 minutes.

The interviews can take place in a safe way in the Parish Hall where there is plenty of space for proper social distancing and the wearing of masks. We will have a list for times that, hopefully you feel safe and comfortable, to do in- person interviews on Sunday, October 18th, time to be determined, more than likely following Morning Masses and through the afternoon. They will conduct virtual interviews on Monday, October 19th (a sign-up for that day still needs to happen as well). I will know the time frame better this week. I want to bring this to your attention so that you can think about scheduling an interview with them on Sunday

Interview Questions may range from:

- -How has your role changed and what types of challenges has the Parish faced?
- -Think about some of the opportunities that have existed in your Parish over the years; how has COVID-19 brought them to a new light or to a new level of challenge?
- -What changes have you made as a result of COVID-19 that will be sustained even after things return to "normal"?
- -Describe the spiritual gifts and or talents that your parish offers the community?
- -What is unique about the charism of your parish?
- -How might a visitor describe the feel of your parish?

Possible Questions for those not comfortable returning to Mass in person:

- -What do you need most of all from the Parish as well as the Church overall?
- -How has COVID-19 affected your faith life?
- -What is your comfort level with returning to Mass? To parish social events? To ministry?
- -What are additional ways our parish can contribute to a feeling of safety?
- -What are ways that the parish can make you feel included in part of the larger parish community?
- -What has been the impact from COVID-19 on you and your family? (They are seeking broader impact than just faith life.)
- -What is the best means for your parish to communicate with you (e.g., email, text, social media, phone, postal mail, etc.)?

I invite your cooperation and participation for an in person or virtual interview for October 18th and 19th! Please call the respective rectory office or send us an email to indicate you want to be interviewed.

Save-the dates for Feast Day and Forty Hours Devotions

I invite you to mark your calendars for the solemn celebration of the Patron Feast days of our Churches and the Annual Eucharistic Devotions of Forty Hours. The schedule for these devotions are as follows: Morning Mass at 8:30A.M. with Exposition and Adoration throughout the day and the main service at 7:00P.M. each evening. The Sacrament of Penance will be celebrated on the first two evenings.

Sacred Heart Church, Clifton Heights:

The Solemn celebration of the Feast of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque at all Masses on the weekend of October 17th and 18th (the Sunday closest to her Feast)

St. Hedwig Church

The Solemn celebration of St. Hedwig on Sunday, October 18th (the Sunday closest to her Feast)

Sacred Heart Church: Forty Hours begins:

Monday, October 19th, Tuesday, October 20th, and Wednesday, October 21, 2020

St. Charles Borromeo Church, Drexel Hill:

The Solemn celebration of the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo (the Sunday closest to his Feast) on the weekend of November 7th and 8th

St. Charles Borromeo Church Forty Hours begins:

Wednesday, November 4th, Thursday, November 5th and Friday, November 6, 2020

This special time in the spiritual life of a parish provides opportunities and graces:

- To renew our faith and reverence for Our Lord's abiding presence in the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist;
- To grow in a deeper and more intimate union with Our Lord;
- To make acts of reparation for any sins, outrages, sacrileges, and indifference which offend Our Lord; (Please read the article below from the World Apostolate for Fatima, USA by Deacon Bob Ellis)

May the Lord bless!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor George A. Majoros

By Deacon Bob Ellis –

The call to Eucharistic reparation is very much a part of Fatima, but interestingly, it did not come from Our Lady. She did not ask for it during any of her six apparitions in 1917. While she did talk about turning away from sin and back to God, she spoke mostly about God's desire for the establishment of devotion to her Immaculate Heart and reparation for sins committed against it, especially in the First Saturday devotion

The call to Eucharistic reparation is found in the third apparition of the angel, in the prayer he taught them, called the Angel's Prayer: *Most Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He is offended. By the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.* Then, as he was giving them Holy Communion, he spoke these words: *"Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Make reparation for their crimes and console your God."*

Francisco developed a great love for Jesus in the Eucharist, almost immediately. When the angel left them after giving them Holy Communion, he said to Jacinta and Lucia, "I felt that God was within me, but I didn't know how." Then, he prostrated himself on the ground and repeated the Angel prayer over and over for a long time. He would spend much of his remaining time on earth praying before Jesus in the tabernacle in order to console Him and make reparation for the sins that so saddened Him.

Why make Eucharistic reparation?

While we make reparation for all sins when we sanctify our daily lives by offering our sufferings, Eucharistic reparation is different in two respects. First, it is done most efficaciously, although not exclusively, in the presence of the Holy Eucharist. Second, its specific foci are the outrages, sacrileges and indifference, so offensive to Our Lord.

What are the outrages? Some examples are the desecration that occurs when churches are sacked; the use of stolen Hosts in satanic rituals; sacrilegious communions repeatedly committed by public manifest sinners who support abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

What are the sacrileges? The reception of Holy Communion when not in a state of grace; failure to consume the Host immediately and discarding it later, or worse, giving it to others who have intent to desecrate it.

Indifference is most often manifest in the ignoring of Our Lord's Real Presence – our failure to visit Him; our failure to acknowledge Him when passing by a church; our failure to reverence Him upon entering a church; and our failure to avail ourselves of chapels of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. We can also exhibit indifference when our reception of Holy Communion becomes a meaningless ritual act where we disregard the grace that God wants to give us.

We can offer Holy Communions in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference. We can visit Our Lord in any church anytime to make Eucharistic reparation. We can frequent a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel and console Our Lord. We should pray the Angel's Prayer often, especially when in Jesus' presence. At the close of each period of Eucharistic reparation, we should pray *"Most Holy Trinity I adore You, my God, my God, I love you in the Most Blessed Sacrament"* seven times. Why seven times? Because in scripture the number seven signifies completeness and/or Divine perfection. What better way to end our time with the Lord.

May the Heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament be praised, adored and loved with grateful affection at every moment in all the tabernacles of the world even until the end of time! Amen.