

Pastor's Corner



My Brothers and Sisters:

As always, you are all in my prayers.

I encourage everyone to read our Archbishop's statement "in Wake of Death of George Floyd," which can be found at:
<https://archindy.org/archbishop/racism2020.html>

Last weekend was the fifth Sunday of the month. That Sunday we always dedicate a special collection to help the people who come to our door through our parish chapter of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. I hope you were able to remember them. I hope, also, that all your efforts to help those in need are blessed with a multiplication through God's graces.

I saw an article on the internet last week with an intriguing title, and so I offer that title to you: "Head Back to Mass Prepared to Unmask Your Heart and Sanitize Your Soul."

In the past weeks, our Church has celebrated the Resurrection, the Ascension, and Pentecost. The mysteries of our faith – and the Hope they engender – are meant to change our world – for we are a mission people.

Archbishop Thompson, this past week sent out a letter to us – reminding us of Christ's call for each of us about this basic command of Christ to Go out to the world and teach all nations, baptizing them. In it he says:

"What does it mean to evangelize? What is its purpose, its goal? We sometimes confuse evangelization with catechesis, both rooted in the understanding of what it means to transmit the faith. Each and every baptized member of the Church is called to participate in the three-fold office of Jesus Christ; namely, to teach, preach and sanctify. While catechesis involves the teaching office of transmitting the tenets of the faith, evangelization involves the proclamation of the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ. In order to be properly catechized, one must first become a believer through being evangelized. Ultimate purpose or goal of evangelization is to lead or be led to a personally authentic encounter with the person of Jesus Christ."

"Our scripture readings throughout the Easter Season have continued to illustrate how the apostles, having been authentically evangelized by their personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and having been sent by Him, go out to make disciples of others."

"Witness is key to effective, authentic evangelization, and evangelization is about drawing or being drawn to the person of Jesus Christ. As Pope Francis has noted, we must attract others to Jesus Christ by our witness of faith. Authentic witness, as we know from both Scripture and Tradition, necessarily involves both words and deeds. In other words, witness is as much or more about how one lives as it is about what one says. It also means that we must be as concerned about how we proclaim truth as much as the truth itself. Truth in charity!"

Finally, I again announce that Masses are beginning. Weekday Masses have been at their usual times for the past two weeks.

Saint Lawrence will start having weekend Masses at their usual times this coming weekend, June 6 & 7. Archbishop Thompson has granted a Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Sunday Mass until August 15. But even with that, we don't know at this time how many of you may elect to return immediately. For this reason, along with the need for "social distancing" for the near future, I am asking the following:

Please stagger the weekends you come.

If your Last Name begins with A-K, please come June 6-7.

If your Last Name begins with L-Z, please come June 13-14.

And then come every other weekend.

After a month we will have an idea of how that is working. But presently let us assume this through the summer.

Please come with face masks and hand sanitizer. Collections can be dropped in a box at the main doors going into Church, so we don't have to be handling a basket everyone else is touching. We have a short video on this at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa6V3ZyW8SA>

Please continue to pray for each other, and reach out to others as you are able.

And please let us know of your needs.

In Christ the Risen One,

Fr. Tom