

November 20, 2016

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

M & M's

The common, ordinary greeting of this script may not be appropriate with this Feast, the centerpiece of our parish – CHRIST THE KING - our nameplate! You indeed may expect some glimmer of sage exhibited here today. No, I will leave that to people herein who have greater stature than I.

Pope Francis created six new Beatitudes: On the feast of All Saints, the Pope articulated fresh beatitudes to supplement those in scripture. Reading the Catholic press, you would know this! I list just one as it fits so well with an upcoming service our parish will soon undertake.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO LOOK INTO THE EYES OF THE ABANDONED AND MARGINALIZED AND SHOW THEM THEIR CLOSENESS:

You likely have heard of Safe Harbor in our extended Traverse Community. The cold season brings out a special need for the homeless within the gravity of the weather. In recent years, area churches have taken on one week of coverage. Alongside of St. Francis, Immaculate Conception, St. Patrick's, and numerous Protestant Churches, we have the honor to open our doors for our first ever week of shelter and food (staying now at St. Pat's in their week)

Particulars:

- Continental breakfast and evening meal. Our guests are gone all day long.
- Parish daytime activities continue in lower level, but we graciously give up usage of evenings. Exception: Wednesday evening Religious Education will be in church proper as we often do. Runs from Friday evening, Dec. 2, into Saturday Dec. 9th
- This is last year to do this in the churches as Safe Harbor hopes to have their own in town shelter. But churches will still be needed to offer volunteer staff
- We need to have folks SIGN UP for some diversified roles for this year's visit to our church. Check in back of church, call the office*

LET ME SHARE ONE THING FROM A RECENT VACATION? (..won't get too carried away) I came across a real message for our current generation that badly needs social skills in communication. Starts with – put the phone away, the text – look someone in the eye. I was traveling on my two wheels southbound out of Nashville in mid-October on the Natchez Trace Parkway. Gorgeous! Restricted as Blue Ridge is to anything commercial. I came across a 22 year old man walking across the USA – Washington D.C. (August) to L.A. in March!! He has a website called LET'S TALK USA. Check it out – mandate for the younger generation!

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And Christopher Andrews, alongside of family, hang their hats in Suttons Bay! And if you look into the 'face to face' section, you will find a picture of me and his thoughts at mile 187 for TN. And tell the young folks: Companies are in desperate search for employees with gifted "soft skills" – such as communication strength.

AND DO WE HAVE TALENT AND BRAWN IN OUR PARISH! We all owe a great thanks to about twenty men who took on that several day project of laying an 8" drain pipe alongside of north and east of our building. Badly needed and they saved us close to \$10,000 dollars. Two key commanders of the troops were Mike Bobrowski and Scott Jozwiak within their employment expertise. Several companies gave us reduced rates and even some free materials such as Cornellie Concrete, Grand Traverse Construction, Alta Equipment, Team Elmers and more...

AND ALWAYS FORCED INTO BREVITY:

- Our efforts to increase our weekly giving is going very well with impressive incoming commitment cards
- be charitable as in giving attention toward our in house pictorial directory. It's a lot of work for Diane Drogowski, Kathy Nelson, and others who offer lots of hours...i.e. come prepared for a picture on any weekend and likely we will be pushed into some scheduling, personal submissions. The info and picture is so critical in an IMMEDIATE need for severe illness, family death, etc – to serve our people

***AND WHY DO WE VOLUNTEER FOR ANYTHING...such as Safe Harbor?** Christ constantly spoke about it! It is a critical hinge to your baptism! It makes sense for walking down the communion line! You would not have a pew to sit in or a church phone to call if others had not done the same. And selfishly – 'It' is a lot of fun'. And we are told we live better and longer!

CHRIST THE KING:

And the close of my homily was stealing words from Bishop Gibson in Harlem. An African American reporter wandered about asking his "brothers", about our recent election. In front of his storefront church on Frederick Douglas Boulevard, the Bishop exclaimed: "It doesn't bother me a bit who is in there (White House). I don't lose a minute's sleep. My president is Jesus."

AMEN BROTHER!



Fr. Raymond Cotter

Pastor / "how luckier can a guy be, than to be here!?"