

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 17, 2016**  
**A YEAR OF MERCY**

**M & M's**

The backside of this transcript reads with so much better prose than mine. I have kept a stack of these reflections that ran in a newspaper over 30 years ago. Today's message, even if not about reading at the supper table, clearly supports the staggering statistics of how families benefit from an evening meal together.


It is always a "nervous moment" for a pastor to single out a few people and undertakings:

- Obviously, Deacon Kevin Endres continues to be a superb gift to our parish. How many of us ordained can preach like he preaches right out of the gate! And back it up so well with his personal, family life.
- And Christopher Ellalasingham likely does not want me to make note of him. He is a strength, unknown to many as a special volunteer, to help in the operations of this parish. As a priest should always note: "we were not ordained to handle the monies in detail or manage a snow plow contract". Lead on!
- He accents, as somewhat of a new parishioner, what others of you are doing as new parishioners. I HAVE NEVER SEEN new parishioners jump into activities like this pilgrim parish. You are simply carrying on from former parishes. A challenge to some too quiet of older parishioners? We are welcoming about a new parishioner a week. An occasional welcoming party?
- K of C, St. Vincent de Paul, CHRP (please, know what that stands for), and Sue Noble, with volunteers, in growing excellence in Religious Education efforts.
- Stay alert and ready for signing onto a Corporal Work of Mercy that the parish is taking on this year. The pre-Mass presenters ask us to be open to both a challenging choice, acceptance – not just the easy one. Sign up next weekend!

I will be traveling to D.C on Thursday with two coaches filled with students from St. Francis High School. It is a special energy to see hundreds of thousands of young people, from as far away as Kansas, Omaha, come together celebrating life. With expressive joy for life, they witness for the unborn children. And yes, I could use a bit of financial aid. I personally charge on my VISA for about 15 in our group, to attend a sold out prayer gathering the night before at George Mason University field house. \$17.50 a person for a total of \$270, plus some transportation costs. A check to Christ the King ...excess, to Sister's of Life. Do something as a witness to an unborn child seated near you in a pew.

I went as a layman from my parish in Columbus, OH in '79. A reason to be a priest now.

Ordinary Pastor in the midst of an extraordinary Parish,

  
Fr. Raymond Cotter

## Here's An Idea That Can Strengthen Your Family

Tonight  
at the dinner  
table, read  
something  
out loud to  
your family.  
Tomorrow night,  
let another member  
read something.  
A news story.  
A Bible verse.  
A Robert Frost poem.  
A cereal box panel.  
History. Humor.  
*Anything.*  
Each night a different  
family member can read  
a selection.  
Imagine the wide range  
of subjects your family  
will read in 365 days.  
What a stimulating way  
to have your children  
develop good  
reading habits.  
We have 23 million  
illiterate adults  
in America.  
We wouldn't have *one*,  
if each of them had  
been served reading  
as part of their  
nightly diet.  
It's non-fattening,  
but enriching.  
And it doesn't cost  
a dime.