

CHRIST THE KING PARISH Acme, MI

June 9, 2013

The joys and struggles of a parish MUST always connect to the parish identity as a Eucharistic people. It is not simply a neat phrase.

Financial challenges in our parish have brought about the retirement of Pat Rendz and release of Denise Elsenheimer. I am not going to try to represent their gifts in known and unknown service. I also cannot represent the personal challenge or change this brings to someone's life. All readers have undoubtedly felt the change of employment within close or extended family, yet each story is different.

Denise has served our parish principally as Director of Religious Education, youth and adults, since 2005. (25 hours weekly) She has supplemented that with identical service to Sacred Heart, Elk Rapids. (15 hrs)

Pat has served in a secretarial role since 1999. She is a meticulous worker and a great resource...i.e. who's who among sick, funerals, and sacraments. A secretary of that mold is rare and a gift...i.e. Bishop's office has had two consecutive ones since my ordination. I applaud Pat's co-operation in the cutbacks, as she was moving toward retirement.

The immediate future:

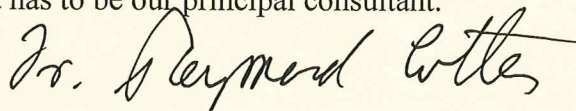
The area of religious education will likely be structured quite differently. Current volunteers and new ones will be asked to do even more. One nearby parish of our size has gone to all volunteers. I do not see us going in that direction. GTACS religion staff will be coming in shortly to evaluate all materials and offer suggestions for the fall (goodwill gesture). We see little change for scheduled summer programming.

The front office will see no replacement hiring. Volunteers in use now and recruitment of more will be sought. We have one office employee, Betz Urbanavage, who will take responsibility for all parish business matters and more. We have operated the office for weeks at a time with one staffer. We are moving to centralized accounting and payroll offered by Michigan Catholic Conference so the workload will be a bit reduced.

The financial weaknesses in our parish portrait were openly shared last year to all parishioners. (mailed 12/10/12) With a monthly deficit of \$2,500, our cash flow weakness has us constantly juggling to pay the bills. Our strains go back ten years plus. On the positive, CSA has recently seen significant jumps in generosity that allow targets to be met, long term debt going down, and stable parish membership.

A good many people have been consulted on this tough decision. I do not expect full understanding or agreement. Christ has to be our principal consultant.

Fr. Raymond Cotter /Pastor



A Stewardship Parish

My parish is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am friendly.
It will be holy, if I am holy.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will be prayerful, if I pray.
It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.
It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith,
of compassion, charity and mercy, if I, who make it what it is,
am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself
to the task of being all things that I want my parish to be.

Please remember in your prayers,

Rev. Monsignor Edwin A. Thome

As he celebrated his ~~67th~~ anniversary
of ordination into the priesthood,
on Saturday, ~~June 15, 2013.~~

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Old Mission Peninsula
13400 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686

59th Anniversary
Error
June 5th 1954
Correct date