

30th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME
October 23, 2014

M & M 'S

This highly regarded column (right up there with postings for firewood sales on local bulletin boards) may get a bit secular in content. With that concern, I start off with some entries of a spiritual nature.

ST. JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSAL SALES: I brought this up at Masses this week. As Advent approaches, alongside of the new liturgical year, the purchase of one of these books is ideal in timing. The 1500 pages far exceed the value of a local case of spilled fine wine. The price varies slightly: softcover \$25 and hardcover \$30. We will have samples in the office. We ask for a check and mark on it: Roman Missal. A donation is welcomed for an inmate copy at Pugsley Correctional Facility – note accordingly. The book is superb preparation for Mass with its brief commentary on readings.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: Our parish takes pride in undertaking the first Conference for the area Society in the area. St. Vincent's is more than a thrift store. Expanded beyond the style of a superb local undertaking as Fr. Fred Foundation, the international society takes on local initiatives (conferences) to directly impact on folks in need of spiritual and life style mentoring. Parishioners Julie Ellalasingham, Jim Warren, and Vince Balog have taken on leadership roles in shaping our parish conference. It is the hope that every local parish will start their own conference. Call Julie, 883-7435, for either the conference information or needed store volunteers.

Julie, President of SVDP, is moving on with a "Ladies' Night Out" fundraiser and hospitality event at the store, 1207 Woodmere Ave., on Thursday, November 13, 5 pm. Enjoy food, shopping discounts, silent auction. Tickets at the store, 947-8466 or Julie, 883-7435.

AND A ROLLING LIST OF "THINGS" UNDERWAY: Any monies represented below are able to be done with recent bequests noted here earlier and continued generosity of parishioners. (paid up front – no debt) All matters have been reviewed by Pastoral and Finance Council.

- The roof: The job is more than just about new shingles. Quality gutters, insulation, and ventilation will make our church more comfortable and efficient on air conditioning and heat. You will likely not notice but two windows up front are being made to be opened/screened and same on side door. Yes, summer weekday masses will be more comfortable! The entire project will come in at around \$65,000. I commend parishioner Terry Hardwick, seasoned contractor, for overseeing the significant improvements.
- The HWY 31 Sign: Daily kudos are coming in on the quality of a long overdue sign for this "hidden jewel" of a church. It does not take a New York City cab driver who struggles with English to exalt signage. I make note of two generous operations that were involved to make it possible. GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT owns the land it rests on. We worked with them and the township to get it in place. You may wish to write a thank you note to the resort management: Tim Norman and Scott Chouinard; 100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd; Acme 49610.

I also thank Simon of SIGNSIMPLICTY who made the landmark. He wanted to pick up the entire tab but I held him to a \$2,000 donation. The remaining \$2,000 is being raised by a few parishioners and I can be contacted to help with the later.

- The lower level is being sized up for new carpet! We welcome folks who want to be part of decision making on pattern, color, etc. Out of my expertise! Would we dare be able to break it in by our identity feast day dinner, Christ the King, on Saturday, November 22?
- You will soon see construction of a wooden and glass wall, double door that will isolate the current youth/TV area of the lower level. A replacement for the present curtain. A conference table will be added to allow for the many small meetings we have. We are routinely having three undertakings going on at same time in basement.
- Life gets easier! The church now has a coded key box at the east entrance/sloped walk. A four digit code is entered and you will be gifted with a key for unlocking the three doors of main floor. We decided against simply listing the code in the bulletin. However, it will be freely given out to members of groups and individuals simply desiring frequent access to the building. Inquire with the office for the code and leave email/phone number for group notification as code may change on occasion. We do not miss a point: outside night lite helps without moon light and also, a list of a few parishioner phone numbers posted on door can be used should you arrive and forget means of access. I would suggest a practice run before the first time with a sense of urgency dressed in a T-shirt at minus ten degrees. (fingers need to be calm)

CHRIST THE KING BANQUET: The last Sunday on liturgical cycle before beginning of Advent is the feast of Christ the King. As before, we are putting together a quality dining experience after the Saturday Mass on November 22. If not at the Mass, an arrival of 6:30 would be ideal. Wine will likely be provided but otherwise BYOB (the initials can even be googled if needed!). The prior entertainment keyed in on pastor reading Irish jokes and tossing out trivia questions to embarrassed parishioners has been completely dumped from the venue. An improved offering is the brief introduction of 30 new parishioners of late. They are receiving individualized letters to SHOW UP! A door prize may be offered to winner with greatest applause to the question: "Where from and what took you so long to get here?"

There you have it! Another remarkable Pulitzer Prize winner of script from your pastor. A pastor who is so focused on his pastoring that he has so few details of distraction from World Series baseball. Is it Kansas City, Missouri, or Kansas City, Kansas? The other team? – or is it all over? Trouble following the thought pattern? Hey, you have an extra hour this weekend to read same or rocking on the front porch, pass it over to spouse Mortimer, "Honey, will you read this back to me"?



"If your first name is Christian, your second name is the church you belong to."

POPE FRANCIS