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FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

Today we celebrate the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Because the Israelites were exiled in the pagan land of Babylon, the assuring words that God had previously spoken to them now seemed empty. In today's passage, the prophet Isaiah will use an image from nature to describe how God's word always bears fruit and comes true no matter how unlikely it may seem.

As we continue reading from the eighth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans, he tells us that sin affected not only human beings but also all creation, and the coming of Christ had a healing effect on both. It is evident that Paul is not pessimistic about this world.

Believe it or not it was four years ago last week that the merging of our three parishes of Divine Savior, Our Lady, Mother of the Church and St. Eugene took place on July 1st, 2022. I thought it would be interesting to look back at what I wrote in my bulletin column four years ago.

"To all in our parishes of Divine Savior, Our Lady, Mother of the Church, and St. Eugene...this weekend begins a new chapter in the history of our newly uniting parish. Welcome aboard! The days, weeks and months ahead will be filled with much activity, new information and hopefully new opportunities for growth, renewed hope, and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. I so look forward to participating in and sharing this new journey with us all. I hope you do as well. There may be mistakes made along the way, but hopefully we can learn something about ourselves as we pick ourselves up and recover from them. Rather than being frightened, fearful and afraid of what is to come I pray that we look to our future together with openness, anticipation, honesty, excitement, and enthusiasm. As I have said so many times before, with the Lord at our side we can move mountains together. Today, we begin this journey as we take our first steps!"



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Eugene Church
Mondays 4 – 6 pm.
Benediction at 5:45 pm.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

In order to fully partake in the Mass, the Priest should be the last one in and the first one out.

Dress Appropriately ~ remember, you are in God's house.

Well, it's now been four years, and we are all still here! To be honest with you I am so pleased and proud of the transition and progress we have made working with one another in bringing our three parishes together. It certainly hasn't been easy, but little by little, one step at a time, we have moved forward in our understanding and appreciation of one another and all that is yet to be discovered and experienced. Thank you all for your cooperation and willingness to make this journey together.

Many have asked how our trip to Poland was. To tell you the truth, I think it was truly a memorable and, moving experience for us all. There were 42 of us fellow pilgrims who experienced a truly beautiful country filled with life, energy and examples of so much faith put into action. Of course, we visited some of the significant religious sites, but also enjoyed dining on delicious Polish Cuisine either in culturally decorated restaurants or outdoors along the beautiful river front cafés that Poland has to offer. Two of the highlights of our journey together were our rafting experience along the Dunajec River and the unbelievable Salt Mines of Wieliczka, both near Krakow. This was truly an experience to be remembered. Many new friends were also made along the way.

By the way, our next trip in 2027 will take us to Ireland. It will be from May 2 – May 13, 2027. After speaking to quite a few people about where they would like to go next year, it was decided that we would be headed to visit the beautiful country of Ireland. Because so many have expressed a desire to go to Ireland, I'd like to let you know early about the destinations and places we will be visiting on this tour. We will be flying from Chicago to the city of Dublin. This twelve-day trip will truly be an all-inclusive and extensive tour throughout the beautiful countryside, shrines, pubs, sites, castles, cities and towns of Ireland – north, south east and west including Belfast and Northern Ireland.

If you would like a copy of the brochure, they are now available in the kiosks at both Our Lady, Mother of the Church and St. Eugene as well as at the parish office. You can also email me at ryanos@archchicago.org or send me a request to mail you one at: Fr. Rich Yanos, 7958 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, IL 60656, and I'll be glad to send or email you a copy of the brochure.

This trip will also be filled with free time for exploring on your own in a beautiful and relaxing environment.

We will be having an informational meeting for this trip coming up in July or August. As soon as the date is set, I will let everyone know All are welcome to join us on this upcoming trip! Feel free to pass along the word about this trip and invite your family or friends for what I promise will be an educational and fun-filled experience. Hoping you can join us! This trip will probably fill up quickly so if you're sure you will want to join us, simply send in your reservation form contained in the brochure to hold your spot.

Looking forward to our next adventure together!

Fr. Rich Yanos