

Saint Francis Xavier Parish

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 23, 2018



*Renew + Rebuild at St. Francis Xavier & Our Lady
of the Lake*

The St. Francis Xavier Parish Renew & Rebuild Campaign has begun. This campaign aims to raise funds, 74% of which will go to the upkeep and future needs of our two parish churches.

Perhaps the timing of the campaign and other issues has raised questions and brought forth suggestions among our parishioners.

This weekend was initially scheduled as the in-pew commitment weekend of the campaign. However, our campaign manager agreed that this should be put on hold until our parishioners have had the opportunity to voice their concerns and get answers to questions they may have about the campaign; such as the use of money going to the Archdiocese, the ongoing scandal in the Church, the future of our parish, the future of the Church in Sullivan County. Also, the meetings will give our parishioners the opportunity to make suggestions and discuss any other pertinent information.

With this in mind, we would like to invite all parishioners to one of the two initial Town Hall meetings at St. Francis Xavier Church. They will be held this Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00pm and Thursday, September 27 at 2:00pm.

Thank you for your faithful support of our Parish!

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 FATHER DENNIS M. DINAN

Dear Parish Family,

The gospel today calls us to service! Sometimes scenes in the gospels with the apostles are like a reality show. Jesus caught his apostles arguing among themselves about who could be considered the greatest. They certainly show their human nature. Things have not changed very much since then. I think we all might have wanted to be important in our own estimation and the eyes of others. It's very human. It's also something that we can't dismiss easily. Bringing the attention of the apostles to this, Jesus also brought out their shame. "*They were silent!*" They were not very eager to discuss the matter with him. More importantly, he did not take them to task for this, but rather instructed them clearly, challenging them (and us): "*If you want to be the first, or the greatest, you must become the servant of all*" (Mk 9:35).

Probably over a dozen years ago, I read the book *The Obligations and Rights of the Pastor of a Parish*, by Msgr. Edward A. Sweeny, a Canon Lawyer. This was not exactly what you might think it to be. Much of it flowed from the definition "that the care of souls, the spiritual good of the members of the parish community [in a specific locality like Narrowsburg], is the basic reason for the existence of a parish and for most of the activities of the pastor and [other parish priests]." It's not a new way of thinking for the Church, but perhaps is receiving more emphasis. In 1979, not far from the opening words of Pope John Paul II's first Encyclical (*Redemptor Hominis: The Redeemer of Man*), the Holy Father spoke of post-Vatican II efforts to renew the Church in her universal dimension. Pope Paul VI's Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi: On Evangelization in the Modern World* set the stage to give momentum to the essential work of evangelization, in order that all might find in the Church "*the unsearchable riches of Christ*" (Eph 3:8). That's quite a goal!

The work of the parish was no longer to be an exclusive duty for priests. The Second Vatican Council would tell us that "the Christian vocation is, of its nature, a vocation to the apostolate." It said that we all "are made to share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ;" i.e. the continuation of the ministry of Jesus, which takes place primarily in the parish. It insists that the activity of lay persons "is so necessary within the Church communities that without it the apostolate of the pastor is often unable to achieve its full effectiveness" (See Vatican II, *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, # 2, para. 1, 2; #10.).

In fact, Pope John Paul II told us, "The lay members of Christ's faithful people ... form that part of the People of God which might be likened to the laborers in the vineyard mentioned in Matthew's Gospel ... 'You go into the vineyard too' ... The call is a concern not only of Pastors, clergy, and men and women religious. The call is addressed to everyone" (*Christifideles Laici: The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People*, #2).

Now in his book, Msgr. Sweeney identified ten basic characteristics of the "activity" or the apostolate of a parish that were described by the Second Vatican Council and later became incorporated in varied parts of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*. These all involve an element of

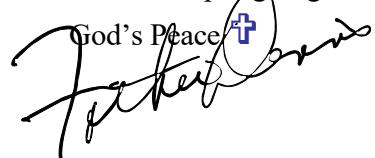
service. They all involve living out the gospel. Msgr. brings these together in a concise readable list, which I listed in the July 16, 2017 bulletin, and will be available in this bulletin on our website. Overall, he provides a "vision" for us to see what a parish should & could be. He gives us a focal point we can use to evaluate: "How are we doing as a parish?"

Since we are preparing to have a couple of Town Hall meetings this week, and possibly follow-up with others, maybe I should stop and let you ask the question, "How are we doing as a parish?" What do you think? Do you see things that should be developed or strengthened? What do you think about the *Renew + Rebuild Campaign*? Why? Did it bring to mind something you would like to see your money spent on? Do you think there is something we could or should be doing with the proceeds? Do you have questions about the Church? The Archdiocese? How do we measure up? What's really going on? Do we in any ways resemble this model of Church Msgr. presents to us? Are we serving the Lord and each other as Jesus instructed his apostles and us to do?

Do we see the charge of Saint James, in the Second Reading, as something applying to the Church in these days, that "*Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice*" (Jas 3:16). This, he says, is surely the source of wars and conflicts. It is even what we uncover behind the passion, crucifixion and death of Jesus pictured in the First Reading. They claimed, "*He is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training.... Let us condemn him to a shameful death*" (Wis 2:12, 20). Surely, not a picture of a very loving Church! Instead of coveting and envy, and breeding hostility, the gospel encourages the opposite: service and giving. This is the only way the parish community, described by the Second Vatican Council, can be developed and sustained.

In the last decade or two there have been books and programs that responded to the question: "How do parishes become like this?" They attempt 1) to help persons enter or renew a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to experience the love of the Father, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as his children and serve as his disciples in the Catholic Church and 2) to also help them to receive the interpersonal support they need to live for Christ within the parish, obviously, this is pointing to a way of life very closely associated with becoming the parish community that Vatican II envisioned, where every person is willing to listen to the gospel calling them to know and serve Christ better, i.e. a disciple's response. It's an expression of love.

Maybe these are some of the thoughts we can bring with us as we meet this week, thoughts that can guide us to having a common purpose and goal we can set out to accomplish together, a goal for us centered on what is Church for us up here, and how do we keep it going?


God's Peace 

Ten Characteristics of a Parish as Was Described by the Second Vatican Council

1. Eucharistic community: Vatican II teaches that any Christian community within the Church, and especially a parish, is to be a Eucharistic community. Specific teaching states that, “the center of the assembly of the faithful is the Eucharistic celebration and that for a Christian community to grow it must be rooted in and hinge upon the celebration of the Eucharist” (c. 528 §2).

2. Parish represents the visible Church constituted throughout the world: What exists throughout the world, is made visible, perceptible and accessible locally in each parish. For this reason, parishes “are the most important” groups within a diocese (cc. 839 §1 and 204 §~1-2).

3. Relationship of liturgical life of a parish to the bishop being fostered in the spirit and practice of clergy and laity: A parish, united through its pastor with the bishop, does in some way represent (or even make present) the visible Church constituted throughout the world. The liturgy is not simply a series of beautiful ceremonies in which all of the faithful take part. The liturgy is the source of spiritual nourishment for all; it is the means by which the work of redemption is carried out and all of the faithful ... are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.... This happens in each individual parish, united through its pastor with the bishop (cc. 528 §2, 592 §2).

4. Encouraging a sense of community within the parish: Efforts must be made so that all the faithful may grow in Christ, and the Christian community may give that witness to charity which the Lord commanded.... In carrying out their duties as pastors, parish priests should make it their special concern to know their parishioners. Since they are the shepherds of all the individual sheep they should endeavor to stimulate a growth of the Christian life in each one of the faithful, in families, in associations, especially those dedicated to the apostolate, and finally, in the parish as a whole (c. 529 §1).

5. Greatest effort at establishing community spirit to be made in common Sunday celebration: This is very similar to the general idea of a Eucharistic Community, but it is more focused on stressing that Sunday is the particular day for the Christian community to gather together. We should each make efforts to draw members of the community to worship with us (cc. 1247, 1248).

6. Word of God to be preached to all: That, as part of the care of souls, the word of God is to be taught by parish priests to all the faithful, who should become firmly rooted in faith, hope and charity (cc. 528 §1, 767).

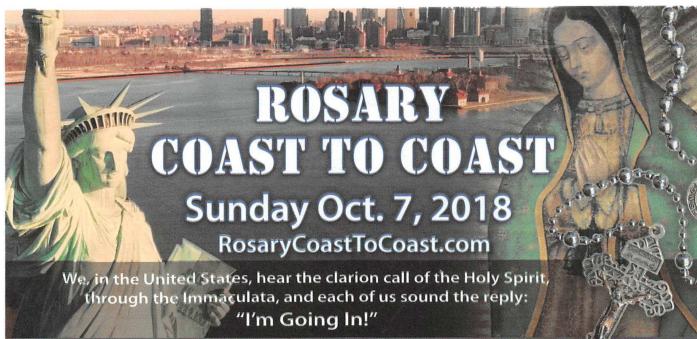
7. Catechetical instruction for all ages as their needs may require: So that Catholics of all ages develop an informed, active, faith-filled way of life. Pope John Paul II taught: “Accordingly, the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.” Parish priests should likewise, by means of catechetical instruction, lead all the faithful according to their capacity, to a full knowledge of the mystery of salvation. In providing this instruction, they should invoke the help not only of religious, but of the laity (cc. 528 §1, 773-780).

8. Spirit of missionary activity and evangelization: In their pastoral work priests will stimulate and maintain among the faithful a zeal for the evangelization of the world by teaching them through preaching and religious instruction of the Church’s duty to proclaim Christ to the nations.... No matter how venerable the history of one parish may be, or how cohesive and locally active the congregation of another, the Church by its very nature is missionary (cc. 791 §~1, 3, 4, 225 §1 and 275 §2).

9. Fostering religious vocations: The duty of fostering vocations falls on the whole Christian community, and they should discharge it principally by living full Christian lives. The greatest contribution [in fostering vocations to the priesthood] is made by families which are animated by a spirit of faith, charity and piety and which provide, as it were, a first seminary, and by parishes in whose abundant life the young people themselves take an active part.... All priests should show their apostolic zeal by fostering vocations as much as possible, and should draw the hearts of young men to the priesthood by the example of their humble, hardworking and happy lives, as well as by their mutual charity and fraternal cooperation (cc. 233 §~1-2, 385 and 791, 1).

10. Parish outreach to persons in special circumstances: *with special needs or problems not ordinarily met by general parish ministries.* This includes those who have abandoned the practice of the sacraments, or even perhaps the faith. These are entrusted to priests as special objects of their care (cc. 528 §1 and 592 §1).

Note: “c.” & “cc.” indicate Canon numbers as found in the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*.



All are warmly welcomed to come and pray the Rosary in unison with millions of others across the world.

**St. Francis Xavier Church
Sunday, October 7
4:00pm**

Light refreshments will be served.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

**St. Francis Xavier Parish
Cemetery Committee**

We are forming a Cemetery Committee for the Parish. The committee will be in charge of forming guidelines, voting on pricing, and making maintenance decisions for both of our parish cemeteries.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please come to one of our two Town Hall meetings being held this coming Tuesday, September 25 at either 2:00pm or 7:00pm.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE™
SEPTEMBER 26 – NOVEMBER 4**

Please prayerfully consider being a part of the *40 Days for Life* campaign, where we maintain a prayerful and peaceful presence.

NEWBURGH PLANNED PARENTHOOD

136 Lake Street, Newburgh Campaign hours: 7 AM – 7 PM
Campaign Manager: Wendy Wood 845-820-4366 or 40DaysforLife.com/Newburgh

GOSHEN PLANNED PARENTHOOD

7 Coates Drive, Goshen Campaign hours: 7 AM – 7 PM
Campaign Manager: Veronica Murphy 845-551-8560 or 40DaysforLife.com/Goshen



PLEASE JOIN OUR COMBO KICKOFF CAMPAIGN:

When: Sunday, September 23 at 3:00 PM

Where: St. Francis of Assisi Church 145 Benkard Ave. Newburgh

We will be meeting in the Cardinal O'Connor Hall, located under the church.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER & OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHURCHES

Mass Intentions

Saturday September 22nd

4:30pm -Helen Indelicato
Requested by Mary Weiden & Family

Sunday September 23rd

8:30am -Henrietta Pierce
Requested by Catholic Daughters, Court Fr. Raphael
11:00am -Dr. Robert Lucas
Requested by Patty Moser & Judy Stringer
-Dennis Falk
Requested by Mary Weiden & Family

Tuesday September 25th

8:30am -Our Parish Family

Wednesday September 26th

8:30am -Dr. Robert Lucas
Requested by Patty Moser & Judy Stringer

Thursday September 27th

8:30am -Josephine Kelly
Requested by Al & Linda Smith

Friday September 28th

8:30am -Ida Alvarez
Requested by Septemberr Totten

Saturday September 29th

4:30pm -Our Parish Family

Sunday September 30th

8:30am -Helen Guttzeit
Requested by The Rosary Society
11:00am -Maria Myer
Requested by Betty Kelly & Family
-Josephine Kelly
Requested by Al & Linda Smith & Regina Moran

Our Parish website has been updated and improved!

You can now visit sfxnarrowsburg.com to find out about parish, county, and Archdiocesan news, events, and announcements, information on our various parish ministries, as well as links to FORMED and other Catholic faith formation websites.

If you would like an event added to our website, please call the rectory.

Collection

September 16, 2018

1st Collection

Our Lady of the Lake	\$249.00
St. Francis Xavier	\$846.00

2nd Collection

Our Lady of the Lake	\$237.00
St. Francis Xavier	\$459.00

Other (Repairs & Maintenance)

Our Lady of the Lake	\$10.00
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Total

\$1,801.00

Thank you!

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 9:30-37

James 3:16 – 4:3

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Please Pray for our Parish Family

For the Sick: Peggy Bayly Lohmann, Dennis Falk, Barbara Walter, Gloria Saures, Ed Brennan, Amy Ernano, Clayton Snow, Barnabas O'Driscoll, Sean Sweeney, Jose Mabama, Ron Burke, Charlotte Mills, Carol Mash, Mary Cauvaris, Barbara Smith, Janine Perry, Hilde Bielfeld, Rosemary Barile, Helene Indelicato, Christine Mary Faggione, Tracy Larssen, Septemberr Totten, Madeline Sheans, Peggy Lee Romano, Mary Weiden, Mary Tresh, Ida Alvarez, and all those struggling with any kind of illness and suffering.

For the Deceased: Theresa Delaney, Helen Bunis, Maria Meyer, Pat Noble, Joseph Meyer, Gloria Ackermann, Eileen Dempsey, Martin Ferrick, Jacoba "Cobi" Campfield, George Johnson, Josephine Kelly, Joanne Barnes Brennan, Dr. Robert Lucas, Daniel Kelly, Fr. William Scully, Jean Salmeri, Barbara Smith, Mary Ann Janowsky, Helen Guttzeit, and all those who have gone before us.

For those Serving in the Military: SGT Vaughn Schlott USMC (TX)