

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS: January 22-23, 2022

Last weekend, our Adult Faith Formation & Service Ministries Coordinator Pam Folve gave a short talk on the Small Faith Sharing Groups that we're planning to have this Lenten Season. If you missed that presentation and would like more information, please check our FaceBook Page or Website.

When the diocese and all the church parishes were doing the Strategic Planning consultation over five years ago, a survey was done at each church parish about what they would like to have going at each location. Some responders said that "there's not much going on at our church parish." While Those some said that they wanted (1) small faith-sharing groups, (2) volunteer opportunities, and (3) more church events and gatherings to name a few. In response to the survey and in order to implement our Strategic Plan that resulted from the planning, it was necessary to have a person on our staff who will focus on the areas of Adult Faith Formation and Service Ministries. A year ago we made that happen by hiring Miss Pam Folve. From the moment she started, Pam has been very visible every weekend at all our masses. She also organized an Advent Small Group sharing and formation and our initial support group for the bereaved. More opportunities will come!

However, in order for the faith-sharing group, support group and ongoing formation groups to succeed, and to have "something going at our church parish," we need y'all to participate and take advantage of them. I repeat – **WE NEED YOU!** The readings this weekend will establish the scriptural basis for this urgent plea.

St. Paul in the 2nd Reading this weekend (1Cor 12:12-30) brings to our attention the idea of *mystici corporis Christi* (mystical body of Christ) that we have become at our own baptism. Using the human body to explain our relationship with Christ, St. Paul addresses an issue and a problem among the early converts at Corinth like complacency, discrimination, indifference, "not-my-job" attitude that was permeating this early Christian community. St. Paul addresses these problems by pointing out that to them that once baptized, each one of us assume a part in the Body of Christ. Some were eyes and ears, hands and feet, legs and arms, etc. "God placed the parts, each one of them, in the Body as He intended." God placed each ONE OF US in the Body of Christ (the Church) as God intended (not as we want to be), and for a reason and purpose. In order for the Body of Christ (our Church – local and universal), to grow healthy and to survive, each member MUST function and do her/his own part. Each part and member is **INDISPENSIBLE!** St. Paul already forewarned them (and us) that if any member does not do its part, the Body will suffer; that is

why **WE NEED YOU!**

The words of the prophet Isaiah, as Jesus quoted him at the beginning of His public ministry (Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21), must be our words every day until the "Scripture passage is fulfilled" in our lives. At our OWN baptism, the "Spirit of the Lord" came down upon us because God "has anointed" us to "bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." As anointed ones of God (at baptism and confirmation), we all got more than enough dosage of the Holy Spirit to do all things in Christ. The question is, "What can you do and what have you done in your life and faith as your share in being a part of the Body of Christ?" **WE NEED YOU!**

Of course not all can do everything and/or function many things in life and faith. Sometimes one can only do one or two things at a time. Whatever it is, we **MUST** do something for the sake of the Body of Christ – the Church. One cannot just be a silent spectator, a limited contributor or a passive member. **WE NEED YOU!**

Why does the Church need you? Because your participation and involvement in the life and ministry of the Church guarantees her survival for years and ages to come. When people stop being a part of, being involved, participating in the life of a church community, the numbers dwindle, activities stop, events disappear, and the church (building) goes silent. We have seen this happen in Europe where the churches are empty and converted to museums. We are seeing this happen in some parts of Latin America where Christianity is slowly being replaced by Socialism. When all the churches are empty, who will pray for you, for me, for us? When no one is there to sit in the pews and worship in our church, who will continue the faith that you have tried to live, the practices that we cherished and the traditions that we want to preserve? **WE NEED YOU!**

Beginning this month and the months to follow, you'll hear announcements made before Mass about events and activities that we're having at our church parish, need for volunteers for some ministries that keeps our community going, and other opportunities to serve the Church and God's people. I am praying and hoping that you respond because **WE NEED YOU!**

Father Vic

January 8th / 9th 2022

Weekly Offering



Weekly Envelopes	\$ 7,298.00
Weekly Loose	1,691.36
Weekly ACH	355.00
	9,344.36

Thank you for your generosity !

Our Sunday Bulletin is supported by the advertisers who are listed on our back page. What better way to say THANK YOU

Wedding Banns

Spencer False & Emma Oubre (2)
Hunter Prejean & Lauren Sylvest (1)



Baptismal Seminar

Thursday, January 27th
7:00 PM - Life Center
Parents and Godparents
are to attend.

Call the office to register

Married Couples Retreat

Would you and your spouse enjoy a relaxing and revitalizing weekend to spend time together with no distractions?

Do you want to grow in your spiritual life together with your spouse and family?

Check out Domestic Church, a movement influenced by Saint John Paul II for Sacramentally married couples that is growing in our nation and diocese!

January 27-30, 2022

Our Lady of Hope Retreat Center
Chatawa, MS (North of BR)

April 7—10, 2022

Lumen Christi Retreat Center
Schriever, LA

Questions?

Stephanie & Justin Touns
stephtouns@gmail.com or 225-439-0734

<https://www.ctr-htdiocese.org/domestic-church-retreat>

Ecumenical Prayer Service In celebration of the week of prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday, January 23 @ 3:00 PM
St. Bridget Church, Schriever

2ND COLLECTION
THIS WEEKEND

This collection supports pastoral programs throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Projects include the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis, and building construction only in case of emergency.

Thank you for your generosity.



JANUARY 22ND / 23RD
BABY BOTTLE
FUNDRAISER

Our church parish will be participating in a Fundraiser to help support Crossroads this weekend. Crossroads, is a life-affirming Christian organization serving women who may be considering abortion. Founded in 2002 by Bishop Oscar Solis and St. Joseph parishioners. Crossroads has helped over 3,500 women & men in Lafourche Parish and the surrounding areas.

Instead of using baby bottles, this year we are asking that you place an envelope in the donation basket located in the center of church near the baptismal font or you can mail your gift directly to Crossroads.

**** Crossroads does not refer for abortions.****

SMALL FAITH-SHARING GROUPS

Everyone is invited to participate in a Small Faith-Sharing group this Lent. Please complete last week's bulletin insert if you want to be a part of a small group.



Please remember
Gary Peltier
Elizabeth Perkins

Who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that their families may find comfort and consolation through their faith.