

## THE BEACON - VOL. 14



During a time of persecution in Rome in the second century, St. Lawrence was commanded to bring the Church's riches to Caesar, and he requested three days to collect them. On the third day, instead of the gold, jewels, and monetary treasure that the prefect of Rome expected, St. Lawrence presented the poor and sick of the city, saying, "These people are the Church's treasure."

I often hear comments about our church needing to offer a program, minister to a specific group, develop an outreach, etc. There is an unspoken and possibly unnoticed assumption that "they" should make these things happen. So often, we forget that WE are the church. WE are the treasure that shines brightly in the world. WE bring the mission of St. John Neumann – to be a beacon of light, drawing people home – to life.

*You are an essential part of the mission.*

In a world looking for a place to belong and something to believe in, your life and witness may be the one thing that brings light to the darkness in someone's world. Your ideas, your time, and your talent all help develop the programs and ministries that provide the space for each of us to grow in faith and community, whether we are long-time members or an impromptu visitor.

*This renewed sense of belonging and purpose isn't just something we hope for; it is something we are already witnessing.*

The results of the second parish survey (October 2024) showed a significant improvement in the average rating of the question, "The mission or purpose of my parish makes me feel my participation is important," moving from an average of 3.67 to 3.9 on a scale of 1-5, which is slightly better than that average for all Catholic churches (3.84).

While we have improved, we would love to achieve a perfect score of 5 out of 5, where every St. John Neumann parishioner knows they are a crucial part of bringing the mission of SJN to life. We pray that our parish vision - to be a beacon of light drawing people home - inspires you to grow in your faith and live it with purpose, lighting the way to the heart of Jesus.

As St. Paul so beautifully reminds us, we are one body, but many parts, and all of us have been given gifts to use for the glory of God. *"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."* (1 Cor 12:7)

We each have a part to play in the kingdom of God, and the Church is more vibrant and beautiful with you in it.

To help become a part of our mission and to find opportunities to get involved, please click on the following button:

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET  
INVOLVED

***Your Beacon Team,***

*Kevin Dwyer*

*Randy Harper*

*Grace Everett*

*Pat Flathouse*

*Karen May*

*Cathy McGuinness*

*This month's Beacon written by Karen May*



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