

April 10, 2022

Real Presence. Real Hope. Real Mission

We have received a few questions regarding the knots that we tied in the ropes on the altar at the Fatima Shrine Mass last August. We wanted to give you all an update and keep you all informed of what will be happening with these knotted ropes. At the one-year mark in August 2022, the Renewal Office will host a celebration, where we will begin to untie the knots in our ropes together. A date has not yet been determined, but when it has been finalized, you will be informed, so that you will be able to join and celebrate with us. From now until our celebration in August, please continue to make the descriptions of each knot available to all parishioners and keep your knotted rope in an area of significance for your parish. These knots require of us both prayer and reflection as we seek to untie them as we move along the *Road to Renewal*.

As a reminder, below are the descriptions of the knots, which symbolizes the struggles our Diocese is enduring.

Icon

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The Renewal Team

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**Knot of Isolation/Individualism –** In the Gospel of John we hear, “My all be as one, just as you are, father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” Our struggle with isolation from the COVID pandemic has caused much separation, anxiety, and stress. The disconnect from family, friends, and community has brought a strain upon relationships and understanding our common bond as human beings. The focus upon individualism and a postmodern culture has exacerbated the isolation that has been felt. The individualism of our culture has resulted in a failure to recognize our striving for the common good, and our connection to the human race. Our lack of recognizing all as part of the Body of Christ has become a knot in the church.

**Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for us!**

**Lenten Blessings to all,**

**Knot of Lack of Faith –** In the book of Proverbs we hear, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” The difficulties within our Diocese have caused many to question or even to lose their faith. This questioning or loss of faith does not demonstrate the faithfulness God has with us through his Son Jesus, and through the gift of the Holy Spirit. God continues to work through all adversity. The Lord is always with us, and failing to acknowledge God’s providence in all situations is a knot.

**Knot of Mistrust-** In the letter of James we read, “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” The inability to do the right thing and the lack of transparency in the midst of scandal and great upheaval has caused mistrust in the church. This mistrust and lack of transparency has fractured relationships between shepherds and sheep, between the faithful and those who were tasks with the responsibility to lead the faithful closer to Jesus. The knot of mistrust represents the lack of truth, transparency, and integrity that Jesus expects of his church.

**Knot of Indifference –** In the book of Revelation we hear, “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.” The indifference and complacency found in our church, the lack of fire and zeal for the Gospel, the lack of interest in response in what young people can offer or are concerned about has caused many young people to walk away from their faith. Our response to this has been minimal, inadequate, at times critical, and we often show disinterest in the real concerns of the young church. The knot of indifference represents a lukewarm church that is timid in its mission and proclamation of the Gospel.

**Knot of Abuse -** Jesus said, “Let the children come to me!” Young disciples are followers of Jesus and are being formed and developed. They should be able to trust the leadership of the church, their Priests, and Bishops to help them love Jesus. Unfortunately, some priests and leaders have broken the innocent trust of children. This abuse of innocence has created a knot of mistrust and hurt in our church. This knot is an obstacle to the love Jesus desires children to find in the church.