A Few Words from Fr. Robert

November 11, 2018

**Please Take This to Heart**

If you or someone you love is sick, please ask to have them anointed. If you are going into the hospital or will be having surgery or tests, please ask to be anointed. If your health is on a downward spiral, please ask to be anointed. The sacraments are for the living and a priest cannot anoint someone who has already passed away. Someone who has already gone home to God cannot enjoy the benefits of the sacraments. Granted, sometimes when you’re not really sure if a person is deceased the priest can anoint a person conditionally, but it is so much better for a person to be anointed when they are aware and can enjoy the peace that the Sacrament of the Sick can give. Please don’t wait for the last moment of a person’s life to call us. Sadly, tragically, sometimes it’s just too late. Remember, anyone can be anointed on Sunday. All you have to do is approach one of the friars. We care about you and want you to enjoy the blessings of the sacraments.

**Prison Ministry**

Another ancillary ministry of our parish is a regular presence in Rutledge State Prison. No one is excluded from God’s love and God’s mercy, no matter what they’ve done in the past. Every week Deacon John and other parishioners go the Rutledge to pray with the men there and give them Communion. The priests go on a monthly basis to celebrate Mass there and hear confessions. In order to minister in the prison, volunteers have to be trained by the State. I am going to be the first friar trained to volunteer at the prison. Eventually, all of us will be trained to do so. Remember what Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” MT 25:35

**They’re Worth It**

I began teaching in the High School this week. The kids were attentive. I was impressed with the notes they took and the art work they drew in the margins. While we’ve already won over the hearts of the little ones, the big ones will need a little more time to let their guard down and trust us. They are just not sure what to make of their new friars. Slowly but surely we’ll win their hearts, too. You all know how I feel about Catholic Education. It’s one of the most important things we do as a parish.

**Goodbye Good Sister**

The Sisters of Mercy have been here in Columbus for over 150 years. Their presence here has been a blessing for everyone, that we all know for sure. Last week Sr. Faith relocated to the Sisters of Mercy Retirement Facility in Savannah. I am really going to miss her. She insisted that we say nothing at the Masses. Some of you might have noticed that I went over to Sister Faith last week at the 8:00 a.m. Mass to ask her if I could say goodbye to her on behalf of the parish. Truth be told, if I didn’t ask I was afraid she would give me a black eye with her cane! After I gave her a smooch on the top of the head she looked at me with a smile and said, “Don’t you dare say a word. Now get back up there and celebrate Mass.” My response was conditioned and immediate, “Yes, Sister, but we’ll miss you.”

**I’m Very Concerned About This**

As you know the friars visit the hospital every Tuesday and Thursday to pray with people, anoint them and give them Holy Communion. Recently St. Francis hospital informed us that they are no longer able to access the religious preference of a patient, so they can no longer provide us with a list of the Catholic people in the hospital. From now on it is ESSENTIAL that you call the Parish Office if you or someone you love is in the hospital. If you don’t call, we won’t have any way to know you are there. We can’t walk around the halls of St. Francis Hospital yelling, “St Anne’s, St Anne’s!” They’ll call the police!
Welcome to the following beautiful new members of St. Anne Catholic Church (L-R): Finnpatrick Christoph McGary, with parents, Sean & Amanda; Abigail Aileen Hanks, with parents, Sean & Micaela; and, Giancarlo Rodriguez with parents, Erick & Evelyn.

Every year, each of our fifth grade students at St. Anne-Pacelli researches a saint as part of their Religion Class. They then dress up as their saint of choice and tell a little bit about him/her at the school All Saints Day Masses. Fr. Robert felt extra special having his picture taken with all the “saints” of St. Anne-Pacelli!

Nov. 2 was All Souls Day, a day we celebrate and remember our deceased loved ones and friends. As in past years, many St. Anne parishioners gathered together in the Catholic section of Parkhill Cemetery to pray the rosary for all our faithful departed. The names of those who had died over the past year were read aloud. Please continue to pray for those who have gone before us in faith, especially those who have recently passed away.

This week Fr. Manny and I showed up at Columbus State in our habits to begin a regular ministry of presence with the young Catholics there. Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name there I am.” Let’s just say we beat the minimum numerical requirement by a long shot. It is our hope that just being on campus, slowly but surely, we will begin to develop relationships with the young people at CSU. This will be a slow but steady process. The parish, on occasion, will also have to make sacrifices for this ministry. Our young people need Jesus in their lives. Please keep this important ministry in your prayers. We’ll keep you posted. Think Mustard Seed.