

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! With the August’s final two weeks upon us, school’s return is as well. We see it in stores and will soon feel it as the school busses hit the road. The return to school for our seminarians will be very different this year, as St. Charles Seminary opens at its new location in Lower Gwynedd, PA . The seminary property on Wynnewood Road, i.e. “Overbrook” was sold five years ago to Main Line Health. And new buildings have been built in Lower Gwynedd. While I have not yet visited the new seminary property or buildings, the pictures on the website are impressive. [www.scs.edu](http://www.scs.edu)

Prior to the relocation of the seminary, our parish acquired from the Wynnewood Road property, a variety of cement planters that sat in front of the lower side. While I’m not sure how long they sat there, I’m certain and very happy that we at St. Patrick’s now have an historic piece of St. Charles Seminary. Be on the lookout for these planters that now sit in front of Church and in our Fr. Sharrett Courtyard.

With this new addition to our property, we are forming a new ministry called **“St. Patrick Gardening Angels”** This group will have charge of caring for our outside plantings and I’m excited at the ideas and the beauty that will grow! I’m grateful to our parishioner, Mike Curry who has generously offered to oversee this new ministry by sharing his “green thumb”. As with many things, **“more to come”**.

Having celebrated the Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven, we know that “more is to come” and we see it this week as we celebrate her being crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. While that title is a bit foreign to us, the beauty and understanding of our Blessed Mother as Queen is something to be noted and appreciated. To help that, I close with a brief description of what that title means and I invite you to turn to her at this time of new beginnings and ask her to guide our families, young people, seminarians and each of us in all the “more that is to come”!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Mary Queen of Heaven & Earth

Edward Sri • 8/19/2019

Mary’s title as “Queen of Heaven and Earth” is a great scandal to many non-Catholic Christians. After all, the Bible doesn’t mention anything about there being a queen in God’s kingdom. All this royal attention Catholics give to Mary—whether it’s singing “Hail, holy queen enthroned above” or portraying Mary in statues and paintings with a crown on her head—seems to many non-Catholics to detract from the royalty of Christ, who alone is King of Kings. Besides, how could Mary be a queen, since she is not the wife of the Jesus but only his mother?

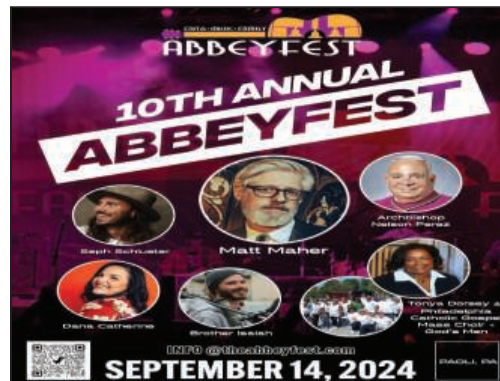
One biblical theme sheds light on these questions and serves as a key for unlocking the mystery of Mary’s queenship: the Old Testament tradition of the “queen mother” in the Davidic kingdom. In the monarchy of King David, as well as in other ancient kingdoms of the Near East, the mother of the ruling king held an important office in the royal court and played a key part in the process of dynastic succession. In fact, the king’s mother ruled as queen, not his wife

The great pre-eminence of the king’s mother may seem odd from our modern Western perspective, in which we think of a queen as being the wife of a king. However, recall that most ancient Near-Eastern kings practiced polygamy. King Solomon had seven hundred wives (1 Kgs. 11:3)—imagine the chaos in the royal court if all seven hundred were awarded the queenship! But since each king had only one mother, one can see the practical wisdom in bestowing the queenship upon her. And so Mary, the Mother of Christ the King, is indeed Queen! (For the rest of the story, google the above title and author.)

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