

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! As we turn the calendar into August, we celebrate three saints this week who were Founders of Religious Communities: Ignatius of Loyola (The Society of Jesus, Jesuits), Alphonsus Ligouri (The Redemptorists), Peter Eymard (Blessed Sacrament Fathers). As Founders, these men did more than respond to a particular need of their day. They responded to God. Or to put it another way, they allowed themselves to be found by God. For Ignatius it happened when recovering from a leg wound; For Alphonsus, it was after losing a big legal trial; For Peter, it was after the death of his father and while recuperating from an illness. Into each of these moments, God revealed Himself and finding God, being found by Him, these men responded by founding new communities of religious life.

This week marks eight years since I became pastor here at St. Patrick. While I am not Founder of Religious Community, I thought it a fitting time to note what I have found here over these years. In 2015, upon my arrival at St. Patrick, I found an **established, solid and faith-filled** Christian Community. Like every community, it had faced its challenges. Perhaps the most significant, lingering institutional challenge was the closure of the parish school. To some degree, that closure affected the parish's identity; I know it effected the parish's mode of operating. But through it all, the fidelity of the people (many of you who are still here) and their pastor (Fr. Sharrett) was a great strength, a solid rock and strong support. While some new pastors find many crises, I did not. I found fidelity and for that --for you and for Fr. Sharrett -- I am grateful!

Eight years into pastoring and twenty-three years into priesthood, I have found and continue to find the presence of God in you, His People. I see this most in the Power of God's Word. Now more than ever, I am convinced that **whenever and wherever the Word of God is proclaimed, beautiful things happen!** For God's Word is True! His Word is Jesus! And His Word is such Good, Saving News.

As I begin year 9 here with you and together we begin another school year this month, the word on my heart and the word that I share with all of you is the following:

Unless the Lord builds the House in vain do the builders labor. Psalm 127:1

I love that Word for its Truth and its Challenge. For me, it's certainly a convicting Word as I guide this addition onto the Church! And I hope it convicts you, too! I hope it convicts all of us to NOT labor in vain. But rather, to be more and more attentive to the Lord, like the Saints were! To do ALL Things – Everything -- in Christ Jesus. If we do that, then all will be well and we will have done well.

Peace,

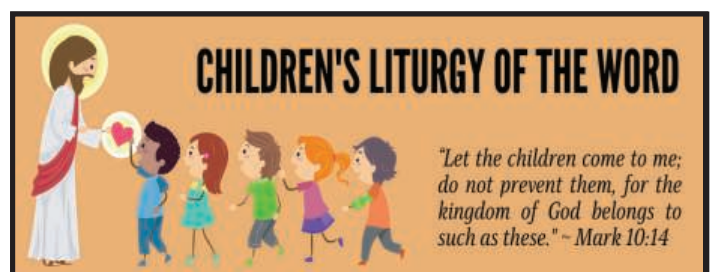
Fr. Rogers



**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT TAKING THIS STEP?
PERHAPS YOU....**

- Have never been baptized but now you feel drawn to explore it
- Have been baptized in another Christian tradition, but now you want to continue your faith journey in the Catholic Church
- Have been baptized in the Catholic Church, but never received the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation

If any of these describes you, or someone you know, we invite you to take the next step to learn how St. Patrick can be part of your faith journey. Please call Father Rogers if you wish to learn more at 610-444-4364. 236



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-The Children's Liturgy of the Word

(CLOW) is a ministry that provides a prayerful environment for young children ages 4-8 years old to understand the Gospel and Sunday readings in an age-appropriate manner. This wonderful ministry begins in September and takes place only during the Sunday 9:00 AM Mass. We are seeking adult volunteers to join our leadership team and lead CLOW once a month. Resources and tools will be provided. Volunteers must first have their SAFE Environment Clearances. If you are interested in being part of this ministry as a Leader or Assistant or have questions about time commitment and obtaining clearances, please contact Jen Keller at jenkellersp@gmail.com or 610-444-4364. 236