

February 25, 2011

Dear Parishioners,

The Holy Father, last Fall, formed a new office in the Curia, the Pontifical Council for New Evangelization. Soon after that, Bishop Sylvester Ryan, speaking in San Diego at the International Catholic Stewardship Conference, gave a keynote address calling all Stewards to be part of the New Evangelization.

On the local front the bishop highlighted the challenge to evangelize all fallen away, inactive and alienated Catholics in our midst. The great numbers who attend Mass only once a year (Easter) gives evidence to the size of the challenge. The Bishop said, if they were to choose one day in the year, they have certainly chosen the best day namely Easter and the Resurrection. We have to find effective ways to reach out and invite them back by creating a hospitable place for their return, a responsibility that is shared not only by the leadership but also by every parishioner.

I wish to invite you all to a few special events in our parish. On March 14, 15, & 16, Fr. Eugene Hensell, O.S.B., Abbot and scripture scholar, will lead us in our Lenten parish mission. He gave the Diocesan priests Convocation and I believe you will enjoy his scriptural spirituality. It's an opportunity for you to bring a friend. On Saturday, April 2nd, Matthew Kelly, a young, dynamic, Catholic, international speaker will give a full day's retreat. He is a gifted, challenging and awesome presenter whom young adults would enjoy. He is very Catholic, don't miss this opportunity! The cost is \$50.00 and includes lunch. For the first time, we will host the Diocesan Celtic Mass on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day at 6:00 PM. The homilist will be Msgr. Michael Gallagher, Pastor of Our Lady of Grace in Fletcher Hills. A celebration will follow, Irish style, with a traditional dinner (only in America) spiced with some fine entertainment of traditional Irish music and dancing on a wooden dance floor. The cost for the dinner is \$10.00.

The Season of Lent will soon be upon us, I hope and pray it affords each of us an opportunity for conversion as we journey together in faith to Easter. Stations of the Cross are each Friday at 11:00am and 7:00pm, and each Friday an extra Mass will be celebrated at noon. Jesus said you are the salt of the earth. St. John Chrysostom said you are the salt of the earth, but not for your own sake but for the sake of others. That's us, Stewards as Evangelists, willing to help bring about a new evangelization in an increasingly secular world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Nicholas P. Clavin
Pastor