

Dear Parishioners,

The Gaelic, Deire Fomhar translates as the month of October. It literally means the end of harvest time, the fruitful season of the year. The Harvest brings many blessings, causing us, as good stewards to have grateful hearts toward the ONE from whom all blessings flow. God is the owner of the vineyard and we are its caretakers. In the enclosed annual stewardship report, we rejoice in our rich harvest and offer gratitude to all our stewards who made a joyful response to God. If you have been particularly blessed this past year do prayerfully consider an offertory increase.

October is the month of the Missions. Mission Sunday (Oct. 23rd) gives us an opportunity to offer prayerful and material support for those bringing the gospel message to the nations and reminds us of our Baptismal calling to be ambassadors for Christ. All our teachers are wonderful Ambassadors, handing on the faith to the young and not so young. So too, all our devoted parents who deserve our best support as they respond to the call of the gospel, Luke 18:8 “when the Lord returns... shall He find any faith on earth?” It’s when our faith comes under attack in our time that we begin to fully appreciate what a treasure we carry in earthen vessels. The canonization of a saint of our time, in Mother Teresa, bolsters that faith and its practice. How heartening it is to join with such good numbers of parishioners at Sunday Eucharistic worship. Can you believe that we have over 60 children in their choir? Let’s hear it for those devoted parents and Mrs. Cavallo!

“Love is repaid by love alone”, wrote the patroness of the missions, St. Therese of Lisieux (Feast Day Oct. 1st), in her journal which became *the story of a soul*. In a sentence she encapsulates both the motive and meaning of mission—the impulse to respond with gratitude to the gift of love and faith offered by God. St. Paul witnessed to the same when he explained his “mission” to his beloved Corinthians, “the love of Christ compels me...” 2 Cor. 5:14

Preaching and teaching addresses more than the intellect: it is focused on the heart. Faith is not simply an action of the intellect but is firstly built on relationship. “The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5:5 It’s the love of God who fires us for Mission. St. Augustine refers to three dimensions for handing on the faith: teaching, delighting and persuading—leading to action—faith in action. In our faith community we are a people of Mission in all our many ministries and one of our recent one, “Catholic School”. The mission goes on in our new construction (see Construction Zone).

In this year of Mercy, which will conclude right before Advent we pray, “bestow O Lord your Mercy upon all who give relief from thirst or hunger, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, visit prisoners, bury the dead with dignity, comfort the sorrowful, forgive injuries, bear wrongs patiently, and pray for the living and the dead”. All Souls/Saints will help us to remember our beloved dead and pray God have mercy on them as we remind ourselves “it is in the shadow of others we live” an old Celtic proverb. In

God’s Mercy we remember each other in our prayers.

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

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Pastor