

PASTOR'S COLUMN

An Explanation, a Hearing Aid, and the Giving Tree

An Explanation. As I write this column, Fr. Thien and I have completed 20 of 24 “Meet and Greet” gatherings in parishioners’ homes. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel! During the gatherings, we have heard many suggestions for strengthening our parish and school. We will be collating, assessing and prioritizing the suggestions once the meeting process is complete.

One question raised at these gatherings is why the ushers now stand at the front of the communion line during Mass. We asked the ushers to do this to ensure that people receiving a consecrated host actually consume the host and do not return to their seat or leave the church with an unconsumed host. Although failure to consume a host isn’t common, it does happen. Having ushers present at communion time is an extra measure to protect the sacred Eucharistic species.

A Hearing Aid. From the parishioner gatherings, it is clear that many parishioners are experiencing the church acoustics as significantly improved of late, even though there still is some reverberation which affects the volume and clarity of the sound in church. For those who continue to find the church acoustics to be a challenge, we have several “hearing amplification devices” available for your use. Some who have used these devices report that the sound in church is louder and clearer when they use it. The devices are kept on the counter in the vesting sacristy at the Metairie Road entrance to the church. Feel free to use a hearing amplification device during Mass if you find it helpful.

The Giving Tree. Although Christmas is over a month away, it is time to think about our annual Christmas Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is a Christmas tree filled with paper angel ornaments. Each ornament has the name of a needy person and a gift wish. The names come from our Helping Hand Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry and Angel’s Place (an organization that assists families with terminally ill children).

You are invited to select an ornament, purchase the requested gift and return the wrapped gift to the church on or before December 9. This is a great way to enter into the spirit of Christmas and give to a specific individual rather than to a generic Christmas collection for the needy. The Giving Tree will be up in church on the weekend of November 17-18.

Thanks to the Daughters of Isabella who coordinate the Giving Tree for our parish and handle the collection and distribution of gifts. Thanks also to all who will give gifts this year and make Christmas a little merrier for the needy in our midst.

God bless,

Fr. Joe