

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

*Thank you, Lord, for our Volunteers*

In one of the great stories of Scripture (Luke 17:11- 19), ten men begged Jesus to cure them of the dreaded skin disease of leprosy. In compassion, Jesus granted their request and healed all ten men. They showed themselves to the priests who proclaimed them clean of leprosy and free to rejoin the faith community. Unbelievably, only one leper, a Samaritan, returned to thank Jesus for the healing. Jesus responded, “*Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine?*” Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?” Then he said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”

Gratitude lies at the heart of being a disciple of Jesus. Jesus expects us to be cognizant of our many blessings; he expects expressing thanksgiving for blessings to be a central feature of our prayer.

St. Francis Parish could not function without the labors of so many good people who offer their time and talent in a variety of ways for the good of our Church and School. On Saturday, February 23, from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm in St. Joseph Hall, we will say Thank-You to All our Adult Volunteers for their service to the Church or School with a “Wine, Cheese and Specialty Dessert Party.” St. Joseph Hall will be decorated specially for the occasion; the dress code is cocktail attire; there will be music, good food, fellowship and fun.

Who is invited to the Volunteer Thank-You Party? All adults who serve the Church or School as a Leader or Volunteer, including Sacristans at Mass, those who open and close the Church or coordinate Adoration; Members of the Sanctuary Society and Music Ministry; Eucharistic Ministers; Lectors; Ushers and Greeters; Facilitators and Teachers of Bible Study, Parish School of Religion, Sacrament Preparation, RCIA, and Marriage Preparation; Members of the Parish Council, Finance Council and School Board; Money Counters; Leaders of CYO, Scouts, Home and School, Men’s Club, Old Metairie Fest, Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella, Sharing Program, Respect Life Ministry, and Family/Marriage & Evangelization Ministries; Workers with Deacon Ed’s Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul, the Parish Fellowship Committee and the St. Joseph Altar Society.

It takes an Army of Volunteers to run St. Francis Parish, and we are incredibly grateful for each and every one of you. Please join us on the evening of February 23 and let us thank you for a job well done in serving our church and school.

God bless,  
Fr. Joe