

September 23, 2018: Campus Update, and St. Vincent de Paul

Dear Parishioners,

This past summer I was able to host several groups at the Rectory. I enjoy sharing the space during the summer months because it is such a beautiful space and I want the parish and others to enjoy it as well. We hosted barbeques for the Pastoral Council, the RCIA group, the priests of our Snohomish Deanery, our choirs, and a school auction group. We also hosted a school faculty retreat at the Rectory before school started. I feel blessed to live in such a beautiful space. The Rectory was built as a private home in 1948 and came with the seven-acre property which Holy Rosary bought in the early 1960s to build a school and then a Church.

As with any structure, the Rectory needs to be taken care of. A project that has been needed for quite some time is the replacement of the windows that are the original single pane glass. A generous parishioner has come forward who specifically wanted to fund this project, so we are making plans to install new glass in about a third of the house. As funds become available we will do the rest of the house. You may not realize that there is a pool in back of the Rectory. Apparently it is the only Rectory in the Archdiocese that has a pool. The pool is not really used and is costly to maintain. The pool is as old as the house and has begun to leak a great deal of water. I think it is time for us to fill in the pool and make a patio space more suitable for entertaining larger groups.

This coming week, on Sept. 27th we celebrate the feast of St. Vincent de Paul. In 1617, Vincent contacted the Daughters of Charity, who then introduced him to poor families. Vincent then brought the families food and comfort. He organized wealthy women of Paris to collect funds for missionary projects, establish hospitals, gather relief funds for the victims of war and ransom 1,200 galley slaves from North Africa. In 1622 Vincent was appointed chaplain to the galleys. After working for some time in Paris among imprisoned galley slaves, he returned to found a community of priests who would serve the poor.

Vincent was zealous in conducting retreats for clergy at a time when there was great laxity, abuse, and ignorance among them. He was a pioneer in priestly training and was instrumental in establishing seminaries. Vincent died in Paris on 27 September 1660. In our present priest abuse scandal St. Vincent de Paul is a good example and intercessor as the Church endeavors to re-establish and support good and holy priests to serve the Church.

I would also like to take this opportunity on this feast of St. Vincent de Paul to express our gratitude as a parish for the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society members who serve the poor in our community. The importance of the work of the "Vincentians" is that it comes from a place of Christian charity. The Vincentians are encouraged to develop their spiritual life from which springs their service to the poor. As you may know there is a food pantry and clothes closet in our Parish Center from which they serve poor people in our community.

In Christ,

Father Vincent