

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 18, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Today's Gospel from St. Luke when read alone appears perplexing. It describes division even in families rather than togetherness. How do we explain what we have just read and heard? Allow me to take it from three points of view.

St. Luke the Author. St. Luke often frames Jesus' life as his final journey to Jerusalem. In the earlier part he has set some overall themes. One comes from the Prophet Simeon who looks at Jesus in the arms of Mary and utters his prophecy: this child is destined for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - - and a sword will pierce your own soul too. (Luke 2:34-35). In the following chapter from Luke, John the Baptist declares that another will come who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire." He will distinguish between the chaff and the wheat. Luke is showing these prophecies coming true.

Passage for Jesus. This is the final journey of Jesus for the Passover. He has felt and experienced significant animosity of the leaders of the Jewish Faith and those people who follow them blindly. Jesus's ministry has not been an unalloyed success. Indeed, in his own disciples he will be denied by Peter and betrayed by Judas. Some discouragement is coming forth in Jesus.

Our Gospel Meaning Today. We too are journeying toward the Passover. Seldom is everything successful. There is wheat and chaff. But it is important that we continue to journey with faith as did Jesus. It is likewise important that we teach our children that success and failure are part of their life also. We do not look for divisions in our family or in life but they occur. Following the pathway of Christ we should not expect or let our children expect unalloyed success. Faith in God, however, is the strong hand holding our hand as we journey.

St. Joseph School

Mr. Ike Holzapfel, Our School Principal, is entering his second year with us. We are having a very positive summer as we prepare for the school year. Noah's Nook has been repainted and is vibrant with color. The North Building, originally constructed in 1961 is renewed. Using special gifts and also positive financing, we have placed over \$250,000 into this reconstruction. The parish and school will use four rooms for art, science, our upper grades, and meetings.

Our enrollment will be up by at least 15%. There is still room in our pre-school as sometimes people are waiting for their children to be mature enough to enter the Pre-3. If any family with a K-8 student lives within 30 minutes of St. Joseph School they are eligible to either be transported by bus or receive up to a \$250 payment (per student). This payment is in lieu of transportation to help offset transportation costs. Parents and grandparents can work together to make this short trip to the school gracious and exciting. We have located a superior music teacher and our faculty are pleased to have received this year a raise of over 3%. I thank the parish for continuing to support St. Joseph School.