

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 25, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Functionally summer is over. The Portage County Fair ends Sunday. Most people have taken their vacation. The Parish Family Festival in July celebrated most successfully 100 years. The Assumption Triduum saw increased numbers of people receiving the Sacraments. School begins on Monday at St. Joseph.

Family Festival

Below I communicate several points of interest. Last Monday Bruce Hartong convened a review meeting of the Family Festival. The time was used to celebrate and thank the leaders of the Festival and the volunteers. The group also suggested some tweaks. In addition, Bruce Hartong passed out the booth weekend summary totals of \$89,829 received.

Some people asked for a full accounting both of income and expenses. Sandy Blazewick shows a total income of \$107,404 that included VIP Tent gifts, band sponsorships, and other donations. The total expenses at this time are \$71,207. While a few changes may yet occur, the profit was \$36,197. There were also the inkind gift of fireworks (\$11,000) etcetera and hours of volunteer work.

Several additions to the festival this year were new. Felicia and Jimmy Davies, and Don Kline prepared the Backyard and inflatable for the youth. The Kids Corner gave young parents opportunities for rewarding time with their children. The fresh lemonade stand attracted many thirsty drinkers.

This festival supports our growing schools and pays about one month of the school's teachers and administrator's salaries. This festival allows the school to keep the tuition of our own parishioners well below the actual cost of education of \$6,500 per student.

Assumption Triduum

The Assumption Triduum was a significant spiritual success. More than 100 people received the Sacrament of "I'm Sorry" and another hundred received the Sacrament of the Sick. The final night saw a full house in the Grotto where literally everyone received the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Grotto with its flower garden, string of lights, and improved seating was inspiring.

North Building Renovation

Since mid-July Mudd Construction has been renovating the North Building for the use of the school and church. Last Tuesday science, art, and math were moved to this North building. This North Building originally built in 1961 is now essentially new. The cost for the renovation was \$230,000. This was paid for in good part by a gift from the estate of Gus Knapp, the Cafaro Foundation, the Henry and Beverly Hawk Foundation of Lima, Ohio, the Clell and Bernadette Smith Estate, and an anonymous gift. The remainder came from earnings from the Stock Market.

As our school opens, grades K through 8 will see a 14% increase. Last year these grades had 114 students. This year we will have 130 students by current count plus 44 students in our pre-school. Tracy Ferrett has taken over the tuition collection for the school, freeing up Kim Jansen, school Administrative Assistant, to handle her multiple duties more easily.