

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Parents,

The third chapter of Pope Francis Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, is a homily on the Sermon on the Mount. He calls it, In the Light of the Master. Pope Francis says

“There can be any number of theories about what constitutes holiness, with various explanations and distinctions. Such reflections may be useful, but nothing is more enlightening than turning to Jesus’ words and seeing his way of teaching the truth. Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy, when he gave us The Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are like a Christian’s identity card.”

“The word ‘happy’ or ‘blessed’ thus becomes a synonym for ‘holy’. It expresses the fact that those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness.” (confer Matthew 5: 3 -12; Luke 6: 20 – 23)

Gift Sent to Haiti

On Tuesday St. Joseph Parish sent a \$7,000 gift to the Bishop of Jeremie, Haiti. Shortly before we were going to send the gift, we received a \$2,000 donation toward that Diocese. This gift from the parish is part of our outreach to those that are certainly poor. This is the Sermon on the Mount in action.

Meeting with Bishop Murry on Intinction

A few days ago I met with Bishop Murry in his office on the matter of Intinction. **He has asked that at this time we not use Intinction as the ordinary method of distributing the Eucharist.** He suggested that I write him requesting that the Committee on Divine Worship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops further explain their 2017 Document entitled NORMS for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds. I have delivered this letter of request to Bishop Murry.

In the meantime the article written by Dr. Cain and myself, **Is Sipping from the Communion Cup a Hazard to Your Health?**, has received a flood of letters to the editor at NCR Headquarters. On February 8th they published another nine letters including ones from India, Australia, Wales, Canada, as well as the United States. As we know, in the United States at least 50% of the people do not receive from the Cup after they receive the Host. The issue is certainly cultural as well as medical.

Bishop’s Appeal for Catholic Charities to Begin

Last year our parish contributed over \$41,000 and this exceeded the goal set by the Diocese. Our goal last year was \$31,730. **Our goal this year is \$33,300.**

Last year the number of adult donors was two hundred nine. However, each of our children contributed their nickels and dimes which would bring our total number of donors to well over three hundred. The goal of the Diocese as well as our parish is to engage more and more of our parishioners to contribute as we reach out to others following the Sermon on the Mount.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
February 17, 2019