

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – APRIL 21, 2019

## **Dear Families and Parishioners,**

He is Alive! Unbelievable! But I saw him. You are dreaming. But he ate with us. We are back: open the door. Are you sure? Yes, very sure! Let us in!

Jesus, the Anointed One of the Father, has won. He has risen from the dead as he said he would do. Now he speaks directly to us 2,000 years later, “Blessed are they who have not seen but do believe.” (Jn 20: 29).

**Who are the they? We are the they.** We see the signs and believe. **Christ Lives.** This is the new Exhortation by Pope Francis to young people and to the entire people of God.

In the life of Jesus 2,000 years ago he constantly told us to look at the signs. What are the signs today of the Resurrection. Perhaps the first and most important sign is you, the people of God filling the Church on Easter Sunday. Our Faith may be limited but it burns brightly today by our presence together in this Eucharistic Service. If we did not believe, we would not be here.

Other signs abound. The parish comes together in consistent resurrection activities: a very successful Fish Fry, the preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our July festival, the November Auction. All of these are the people keeping alive the vision of a resurrection not only of Jesus but also of all the relatives who have gone before them. So many of these are now buried in our cemetery.

Those buried now see, while we (the living) have only faith. Jesus words are spoken to us directly. “Blessed are they who have not seen but do believe.” Our hope is that this belief may not be fleeting but rather growing, and the growth is actually seen today in our parish as St. Joseph grows in numbers, the school in excellence, the Grotto in beauty, and the peace of the cemetery. Faith in God brings both growth and peace.

## **New Exhortation of Pope Francis**

Bishop Murry in early April wrote a letter and described a vibrant parish together and exhibiting ten characteristics. One of these was a “focus on youth and young adults and programs to minister to them”. Deacon Steven Gies has taken great leadership with his recent experience with the Confirmandi. He is continuing this with small group meetings.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the July Festival offers us another opportunity. Felicia and Jimmy Davies, Don Kline, and Deacon Gies are taking the leadership for special activities and locations for young people at the Festival. There will be a special tent for them, youth activities, and engagement. I wish to thank in advance Felicia Franze Davies and her husband Jimmy for spearheading and leading this effort.

Our parish is responding to the bishop’s request to incorporate the youth. Pope Francis’s new Exhortation to the youth: *Christ is Alive!*

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J  
April 21, 2019