

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MAY 12, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Friday we had Grandparents Day at St. Joseph School. The church was full. The Responsorial Psalm was most appropriate as we mixed young students with mature grandparents. The Psalm response was this: We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Incidentally, Grandparents' Day is one of the elements eliminated at a Public Local School.

Grandparents: Sharing the Wisdom. Pope Francis on December 12, 2017 spoke about the wisdom of grandparents. The following is an excerpt from a book published under the messages of Pope Francis.

Sharing Wisdom: The Beginning of a New Alliance

by Pope Francis

Our society has silenced the voices of grandparents. We push them out of the way. We didn't give them the chance to share their experiences, to tell their stories, and to speak about their lives. We put them aside, and so we have lost the treasure of their wisdom.

When we marginalize our grandparents, we lose the chance to learn their secret, the secret that has allowed them to navigate their way through the adventure of life. And so, we lack role models and the benefits of their lived experiences. We get lost. We miss the wisdom of people who have not only stayed the course over time but who have maintained gratitude in their hearts for everything they have experienced.

This idea became clear to me when I considered the words of the Prophet Joel, who says, "In God's name, I will pour out my Spirit upon everyone and your sons and daughters shall become prophets; your elders will dream dreams, your young people will see visions." (Joel 3:1)

What do I ask of the elders among whom I count myself. I call us to be memory keepers. We grandfathers and grandmothers need to form a choir. I envision elders as a permanent choir as a great prayers and supplications of prayers and songs of praise support the larger community who works and struggles in the field of life.

July 31, 2017 - Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Parish Festival - - 100th Anniversary

Bishop Murry recently wrote to the Diocese that each parish should make special effort to incorporate the youth. The 100th anniversary of our festival offered us a special opportunity. Jimmy and Felicia Franze Davies took on this challenge in a special way. They have put together a subset to the festival which they call **The Backyard**. It is an exclusive teen area located on the north side of the festival area near the new maintenance garage. They will have their own special tent in which the young folk can mingle.

Joining in this effort are Don Kline and Deacon Gies. Deacon Gies has taken on a special interest in the youth since his very successful Confirmation Program. You will hear more about his new venture within the festival. In advance, I want to thank Jimmy and Felicia Davies, Don Kline, and Deacon Gies, and others who have accepted this challenge of the Bishop.

We also will be using some younger readers at the parish and an additional eight people are in training as servers at Mass. You will also see in the bulletin that we are adding a second kindergarten class because we already had a waiting list. Educational cutbacks in our local public schools are turning people toward St. Joseph School. Please read the announcement in the bulletin.