

For Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> Bulletin - (435 words including head and “tease”)

### **“Just what is a Cenacle?”**

A few weeks ago, those who couldn't define or pronounce the word “cenacle” were invited to watch this bulletin space in order to be enlightened.

Actually, the word is pronounced as it looks, except for using a soft “c” so that the first syllable sounds like the beginning of the word “senator.”

As to its meaning, cenacle refers to the Upper Room (Acts 1:12-14) where the apostles gathered with Mary and other women to pray before Pentecost. Appropriately, rosary cenacles are groups named after that meeting place.

Which brings us to the subject of the rosary cenacles at St. Sebastian. The practice of saying the rosary and a few special prayers in a group comes from a movement started by an Italian priest, Father Stefano Gobbi, early in the 1970s as part of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Parishioner Marga Bohm started a cenacle at St. Sebastian in 1995 with about 12 people. Although that number has diminished over the years, those who wish to join in the prayers are invited to come to church on Fridays from 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. to pray for the needs of the church and for vocations.

Originally, this cenacle met in homes, but it was moved to the church to invite wider participation. The Rosary is also prayed daily after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, with those attending alternating as leaders.

Not discouraged by smaller numbers, Marga says she feels that the group prayer is important because “Christ told us of the power of prayer, and how if two or three were gathered in His name He would be among them.” She also believes that in the past 20 years there has been an increase in young men within the parish who have become interested in the priesthood.

Around 15 years ago another cenacle was formed by Joan Brownfield and a few friends and continued as a home gathering. Joan says they were given guidance, which included information and prayers from the Marian Movement, to start the group.

The members of that cenacle met once a month, alternating homes and included intentions for their children, personal intentions and prayers to improve world conditions.

While the home cenacle has not been active recently, Joan has offered to help and provide materials to anyone interested in starting a group. She can be reached at 330-962-1709 or [rbsdad@aol.com](mailto:rbsdad@aol.com)

Marga also is willing to help. You can call her at 330-867-7081 or email her at [margabohm@att.net](mailto:margabohm@att.net). Of course, you can also talk to her at church on any Friday afternoon around one o'clock.

**Coming: Let's give everyone a voice!**