



Angelus Letter
9 February 2023
LETTER #210

Dear Parish Family,

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND

Friday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Bozek
Friday Confessions at 4 p.m.

Saturday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck
Saturday Confessions at 4 p.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. with Fr. Bozek

Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. with Fr. Bozek
Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck
Sunday Mass at 1 p.m. with Fr. Bede OSB

A FEW DAYS AWAY NEXT WEEK

I will be taking off for some unexpected days away next week (February 13th through the 16th) to visit my nephew. Fr. Bozek will be holding down the fort until Friday.

FUTURE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Last week, Bishop Malesic brought together all of his pastors, principals and business managers to prepare them for the upcoming plan to be rolled out in the diocese called Keeping the Faith, designed to strengthen our Catholic primary schools. Our diocese is the twenty-third largest diocese in our nation, but we have the sixth largest enrollment in Catholic schools and our Bishop is committed to keeping our schools strong in service for the future.

You may recall that I served for some time on the team, the Governance Committee, working on this plan. That plan has since come together with the rest of the committees works to develop a diocesan wide strategy for strong Catholic education.

This meeting did not get into the details of the plan but was announcing that it is coming and that the Bishop expects his priests to cooperate in its success. One of the biggest changes will be a return to the spirit of Plenary Councils of Baltimore (1852 - 1848) in which it was decreed that all Catholic parishes have a school. Instead of stand-alone parishes supporting a school while other parishes do not, all parishes will, in the near future, be associated with, support and deliver services to a Catholic school. It is difficult to determine exactly what that might mean for a parish in the somewhat unique position as St. Sebastian Parish. (We are completely surrounded by parishes with schools.)

As part of the presentation, we were shown a video, one of three that was produced to help prepare the diocese for this new initiative. On two of them, St. Sebastian Parish School, one of our teachers, St. Julie Billiard, Akron and I are heavily featured if you know what to look and listen for! There is a shorter kick off video that you can find [HERE](#) along with an overview of the plan as well as a two-page summary. More will be rolled out soon.

VOCATION NEWS

As you know, we have one young man discerning life as a Capuchin Friar, and we have a couple of women discerning religious life. I've also shared that we have a few young men considering the seminary and discerning whether the priesthood is for them or not. Well, here is more good news, one of those young men visited our seminary and has been offered admission. I won't give his name quite yet as there is still some decisions to be made and I don't want him to feel pressured, but I would ask you for your prayers for him and for all of our young people discerning and their families.

BECAUSE THIS LETTER IS SO LONG, I INCLUDED SOMETHING CUTE

Joan of b'Arc!



BE PREPARED!

Ash Wednesday is coming quickly upon us, February 22nd! Now is the time to make plans on what disciplines you want to practice during this holy season. There is the Forty Day Club in which parishioners attempt to attend at least some Masses during the week. Tuesdays are adoration days in the Church. We especially need adorers around mealtimes, so consider stopping in and visiting Jesus no matter what length of time you can muster. Fridays we will have Stations of the Cross and Benediction. This would also be a good time to start planning your confession! Also, soon you will be able to pick up your Rice Bowl to help the poorest of the poor around the world in prayer and in sharing of your resources.

Our **Lenten Mission will be March 12th through the 14th in the evenings at 7p.m. in our parish church.** Last weekend, free copies of the book "Pray 40 Days" was distributed after all of the Masses. It was written by the Rev. Michael Denk who is a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland and also our Mission Director. The book goes along with our Mission and explains itself and how it is to be used. If you did not get your copy, please do so either this weekend or stop by the rectory office. If you are shut in, please contact Keith Johnson johnsonk@stsebastian.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Next weekend is the Catholic Charities Appeal at all parishes in the diocese. Please pray about your participation.

LETTER SENT FROM THE BISHOP CONCERNING THE HOLY LAND

This letter was sent out from Bishop Malesic to all parishes this past week:

The Catholics in the Holy Land are descendants of the "living stones", the original Christians of the Holy Land. Yet, due to the ongoing conflict and occupation, they continue to emigrate in large numbers, going from 18% to less than 2% of the population. The future of these Christians depends upon the solidarity of the Universal Church and the presence of peace and justice for all. There is a real danger that one day the places of worship in the land where Jesus was born, died and was resurrected, could become museums rather than active, living, places of worship.

In light of this, I would like to recommend way we can help support a bright future for the Christian communities of the Holy Land:

First, we have begun bringing interested Catholic people and organizations within the Diocese, to form a Holy Land Consortium to help uphold Catholic education and the wellbeing of children at Holy Family in Gaza. I would urge you to join this local effort standing in solidarity with the Christians at Holy Family School and Parish (contact: jabood@att.net).

Secondly, in helping raise awareness and support of the Christians in the Holy Land, I would recommend hosting a speaker from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. This is the Vatican's Order of Knighthood tasked with this important mission. Please contact Sir Jeffery Abood to setup any educational opportunities (jabood@att.net).

Lastly, while there are many pilgrimages and tours to the Holy Land, as I am also planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land next year, supporting our Christian brothers and sisters in their businesses would be a way of supporting their livelihood and the presence of the Christian community.

We urge all Catholics to pray for the peoples of the Holy Land, to come on Pilgrimage to both the Holy Sites and to visit in solidarity with the local Palestinian Christian communities, and to urge our nation's leaders to support policies that promote justice and peace.

Since we are getting close to our Lenten season, here is letter from 1932 concerning a parish practice that Fr. Zwisler was implementing for the parish:

**THE WHITEHEAD & HOAG CO.
Newark, N.J.**

1329 Williamson Building
Cleveland, Ohio
February 3, 1932

My dear Rev. Zwisler,

This is to acknowledge and thank you for the order given me over the phone this morning calling for 1900 Lenten Loyalty Banks with the Sacred Heart design at 14 cents each.

The imprint on these banks will read: (for children) "Please to put a dime each Lenten week into this bank for you Holy Week offering," and (for adults) "Please to put a dime each Lenten day for your Holy Week offering."

The order also calls for 1500 boxes at \$37.50 per thousand.

The banks and boxes will be shipped on Friday without fail by special handling and should reach you Monday morning.

In order to complete our records, I would appreciate your signing the enclosed order form and returning it in the enclosed envelope.

Yours very truly,
THE WHITEHEAD & HOAG COMPANY
Paul Molineux
District Manager

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

TO GIVE TO THE PARISH: <https://www.stsebastian.org/donate>

TO GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION: <https://www.stsebastian.org/foundation/donate>

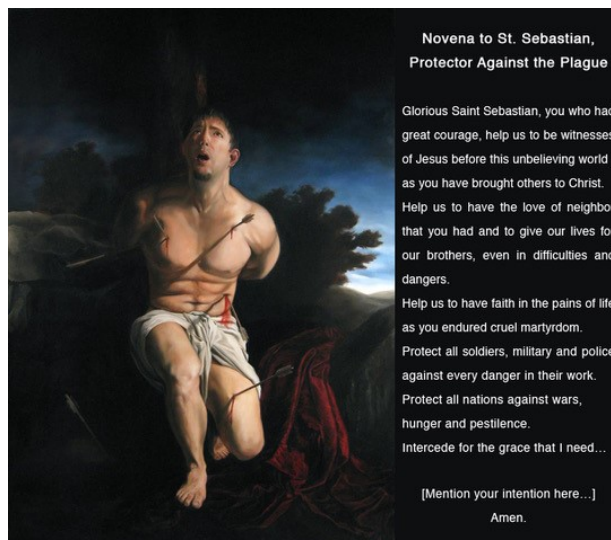
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please keep all of our sick and distressed in your prayers:

Annette Bailey, Jill Buffa, Regina Buhalak, Dan Canale, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Jo Cooney, Nancy Cotter, Anthony D'Attoma, Tammy Davis, Marjorie DeLuca, Mary Pat Doorley, Rosemarie George, Rita Buhalak Gossford, Bill Heising, Robert Hickey, John and Terry Hogan, Ann Hubiak, Carson Hutzell, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Candace Kidd, Fred Kovacic, Jean Labate, Dr. Dan Lehnhoff, Frank Livigni, John Marckel, Myrna Marple, Marlene McFadden, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, Keith Pecek, Julius Peters, Beverly & Mike Preston, Bob Rader, Mary Ricks, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Betty Sarich, Michael Schnetzer, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith and Ann Zsembik.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck
St. Sebastian, pray for us.



St. Sebastian Parish | 476 Mull Ave, Akron, OH 44320

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