



Angelus Letter
24 March 2022
LETTER #164
St. Óscar Romero

Dear Parish Family,

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND

Friday Mass at 8AM with Fr. Bozek

Friday Stations at 1:45PM

Friday Confessions at 4PM

Friday Stations at 7PM

Saturday Mass at 8AM with Fr. Bozek

Saturday Confessions at 9:30AM

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30PM with Fr. Valencheck

Sunday Mass at 9AM with Fr. Bozek

Sunday Mass at 11AM with Fr. Valencheck

Sunday Mass at 1PM with Fr. Bede OSB

9 NIGHTS OF NIGHT PRAYER

Do you remember when we had the *9 Nights of Night Prayer* leading up to the Feast of the Assumption? Currently this is taking place at nine other parishes leading up to the Feast of the Annunciation, which will be celebrated on March 25th. Sts. Peter and Paul in Doylestown, where Fr. Peter Morris, recently a parochial vicar of our parish but now their pastor, is one of those parishes. Sts. Peter and Paul is one of the oldest parishes in the diocese, being founded before Cleveland was even a diocese unto itself! If you are looking for a nice Lenten thing to do, stop down at 8:15PM for about a 15 minutes prayer service. On the 25th there will be an ice cream social following. More information can be found here:

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/9nights/overview>

HELP FOR UKRAINE

REPORT ON THE BENEFIT CONCERT FOR UKRAINE AT ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH: **Singers Companye & Northeast Ohio's Best Instrumentalists** came together last weekend at St. Sebastian Parish to perform a concert to help the relief efforts in Ukraine. A sizable crowd turned up! Not only were there a number of Sebastianites, there were quite a few people from around the area whom we were able to host. The free will offering, 100% of which went to the relief effort, was in excess of \$8,000! Thank you to everyone who helped make this afternoon of art and charity a success!

WHERE ELSE TO DONATE FOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN UKRAINE:

Catholic Relief Services makes it easy to donate through their website. Click here:

<https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>

The Catholic Extension Service provides this site to donate:

<https://www.catholicextension.org/stories/how-to-help-ukraine-through-the-catholic-church/>

Information can also be found on the homepage of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church on Brown Street in South Akron. It might also be nice to go celebrate Mass (Divine Liturgy) with them to show support. It would also give you a chance to see what Mass in one of the eastern branches of Catholicism is like: <http://www.hgucc.org>

If you would like to do your own research, here is at least one website that suggests various Catholic venues for getting aid to those in need in Ukraine from the Catholic News Service:

<https://www.catholicnews.com/update-where-to-give-to-help-ukraine/>

FUTURE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

On Monday, there was a plenary meeting of all the committees working on the proposal for the strengthening of Catholic grade school education in the Diocese of Cleveland. Listening sessions were held across the diocese (many cancelled or moved to Zoom because of COVID) and feedback was given on the proposed change ideas of the committees. (I served on the governance committee.) Taking that information, each group is now taking their change ideas and making them specific, identifying the resources that are needed, who is to be responsible, what the timeline should be and what are the markers to show that it has been completed. This part of the process is to be finished (tentatively) by August 8th, then to be given to the Bishop, if all goes well, in September.

WHILE WE ARE ON THE TOPIC OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS . . .

Michelle Huber, our Director of Marketing, has added a link to our webpage to help you with the new Angel Scholarship Fund program that allows you to direct up to \$750 of your liable income tax (\$1500 if married and filing jointly) to support St. Sebastian Parish School! Here's is where to find it: <https://www.stsebastian.org/news/new-angel-scholarship-fund>

AMENITIES AND HANDICAP SERVICES

Our website has a page that lists what services and amenities we have for those who need different services in order to attend church or make it easier to participate. Find out more by clicking here:

<https://www.stsebastian.org/church/handicap-services>

AT HOME VERSION OF THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Our final meeting for the world-wide Synod on Synodality will be on Wednesday, March 30th from 7 to 9PM in Zwisler Hall. If you cannot make those dates, the Diocese is providing an at home version:

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/synod/individual-participation>

FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

Today we come to the end of the folder entitled, "Parishioners in Armed Services" within the Forgotten Cabinet. Next week we will grab the next interning file and begin a new series!

FIRST LETTER

The first letter this week was written on onionskin paper with no letterhead:

February 3, 1942

Dear Father Zwisler,

Here I am no longer at Camp Walters but at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. I never saw so many tents in one place as there are here.

Fr. Zwisler, next Monday at the Holy Name meeting will you ask the person that takes care of the Universe Bulletin subscription to please have my address changed. Tell everyone in the Holy Name Society if they hear of anyone coming down here that they know if they drop me a line with the address on, I'll surely look them up and show them the ropes of the Army.

Well Father, I have a lot of studying to do too. I have to give a lecture tomorrow morning on Arial Photography reading. Tell everyone I said hello.

Jimmie McDermott

SECOND LETTER

UNITED STATES ARMY

Sunday, August 1

Dear Rev. Father,

After spending four days at Fort Hayes, Columbus, I was shipped to Miami, Florida. Those sent here are in the Army Air Corps, some in the ground crew and some will fly . . . I hope to fly.

Food and sleeping conditions are much better there than Fort Hayes . . . we live in hotels taken over by the government. The one I am in is the "Copley Plaza" and from my room window, I can see a beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean.

I was able to attend Mass this morning though I doubt if I will get to make the First Friday. I met a nephew of Father Laubacher and have found him very good company.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you did for me. Your letter containing a medal and blessing were all appreciated and I will always remember you for it. I am glad that I was able to attend a Catholic School because I was taught obedience, promptness and respect for authority all of which are necessary in Army life.

Yours respectfully,
Pvt. Ed Gemind (Class of 1939)

P.S. Please say "hello" to Fathers Schwartz and Flynn for me.

FINAL TWO LETTERS

The last letters that will be published here from this file are from the same soldier who only signed his letter, "Jack." They arrived at the parish about a week apart.

NAVAL TRAINING STATION GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

August 5, 1944
Saturday

Dear Father,

So far, they haven't said anything about changing our date of graduation and if they don't, I will be home on Sunday, September 3, and will be glad to be able to serve on the altar again. In case they do change the date, I will write you right away and let you know so you can make different arrangements for a server.

Yesterday and the day before I was swimming in the pool here at Great Lakes which is the largest indoor pool in the world. I only wish we could go swimming every day, since the water is so nice especially during this hot spell.

I am beginning to realize that my training here at Great Lakes is going to help me as a Priest, because a person can't live in such close contact with all classes of boys and young men without learning a lot. Especially the need of prayer and good example. Most of the fellows here are swell boys, but don't seem to know or realize the teaching of the Church, and if they do know them, they don't have the necessary grace to perform them.

I hope that you are well and haven't been bothered by the heat too much. Remember me in your prayers.

Sincerely,
Jack

SERVICE SCHOOL U. S. TRAINING CENTER GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

Dear Father,

I no sooner received your letter than I learned that they have added another week on to our training which means we will graduate September 7, and my first Sunday home will be the 10th, that is if they don't change it again.

I saw the picture in the Universe Bulletin of yourself and members of the parish signing the Diocesan Service Roll and I am glad my name was added to the list. Our Parish is certainly well represented with 361 men in the service.

I suppose you now have your hands full getting ready for school I pray that you are well and everything at St. Sebastian is coming along as good as ever. Remember me in your prayers.

Sincerely,
Jack

NOTE: This concludes the letters from servicemen from the parish. After the war, most of them were enrolled in the St. Sebastian veteran's association. Monsignor recognized this group as the most active in the parish. Please say a prayer for those who died, for our veterans and those who currently serve.

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, Marilyn Bohling, Jill Buffa, Regina Buhalak, Dan Canale, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Leslie Clark-Wolf, Jo Cooney, Rita Cummings, Anthony D'Attoma, Linda Davis, Marjorie DeLuca, Mary Pat Doorley, Rita Buhalak Gossford, Robert Hickey, Phil Hochstetler, John and Terry Hogan, Ann Hubiak, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Jean Labate, Dr. Dan Lehnhoff, John Marckel, Myrna Marple, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, Keith Pecek, Beverly & Mike Preston, Mary Ricks, Nancy Ropchock, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Michael Schnetzer, John Schultz, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Steve Watral, Dona Wolff and Ann Zsembik.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck

St. Sebastian, pray for us.

St. Oscar Romero, pray for us.



**Novena to St. Sebastian,
Protector Against the Plague**

Glorious Saint Sebastian, you who had great courage, help us to be witnesses of Jesus before this unbelieving world as you have brought others to Christ. Help us to have the love of neighbor that you had and to give our lives for our brothers, even in difficulties and dangers. Help us to have faith in the pains of life as you endured cruel martyrdom. Protect all soldiers, military and police against every danger in their work. Protect all nations against wars, hunger and pestilence. Intercede for the grace that I need...

[Mention your intention here...]
Amen.