

Angelus Letter
26 May 2022
LETTER #173
St. Philip Neri

Dear Parish Family,

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND

Friday Mass at 8AM with Fr. Valencheck
Friday Confessions at 4PM

Saturday Mass at 8AM with Fr. Valencheck
Saturday Confessions at 9:30AM
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30PM with Fr. Bozek

Sunday Mass at 9AM with Fr. Valencheck
Sunday Mass at 11AM with Fr. Bozek
Sunday Mass at 1PM with Fr. Paschal OSB

NEW SERVERS

We have new faces in our sanctuary. At daily Masses, new servers are being paired with experienced servers (and seminarians) as part of their training. So far, they have been doing a fabulous job. Please join me in thanking them for stepping up to the plate especially since we lost a couple of years of training new servers due to the pandemic. It is time to fill our ranks once again! Please keep them in your prayers.

One of the aspects of the parish that I am regularly complimented on is our altar servers. Visiting clergy especially appreciate that they are in capable hands during a time when many parishes do not yet have servers again. You young men and women do more good than you know! Thank you so much for your ministry.

If there is a young person out there who would like to serve (fifth grade through high school) and who missed out on the training sessions, please contact Keith Johnson, JohnsonK@stsebastian.org.

LETTER FROM BISHOP MALESIC CONCERNING DOBBS

The Bishop sent out a letter recently stating in part:

As you know, we are expecting the U.S. Supreme Court to issue its ruling in Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization anytime between now and the end of June. Given the possibility that the Court could use this case to overturn or significantly roll back Roe vs Wade, the need to be prepared for this decision at the national, state, diocesan and parish levels cannot be overstated. Regardless of what happens, there will be a firestorm in the media, perhaps greater than the one created by the leaked initial draft of the decision. We have already seen that parishioners will be affected in various ways.

Anticipating increased calls for help, we must redouble our efforts to accompany women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, as well as to offer mercy to those suffering from abortion. And we must certainly better communicate the Church's pastoral response that already exists. It is sobering that the recent communications research tells us that many Catholics do not see this compassionate response, and many are unaware of the Church's help for those in need.

Bishop Malesic

Even among our own, there is not always the awareness of what is available to those facing these difficult decisions. I see you. I appreciate you and I pray for you. You are out there volunteering at clinics, running programs, providing counseling, collecting food and baby necessities for distribution, providing daycare, helping stressed mothers (even at Mass!), fighting for pro-life causes, demonstrating, praying and putting your time and resources where your words are. That is the bravery and sacrifice to which we are called as Catholics.

To stay better informed, the Bishop has sent out a list of websites and resources, from which to choose, for your consideration:

The Catholic Conference of Ohio can be found [HERE](#).

To receive alerts, prayers and ways to strengthen a culture of life in your community go to the Respect Life Prayer and Action site [HERE](#).

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Pro-Life Action Alerts can be found [HERE](#). (Make sure to select "Pro-Life" under areas of interest.)

[WALKING WITH MOMS](#)

[HOPE AFTER ABORTION](#)

Finally, in your discussions with others, there is a major misconception out there that the overturning of *Roe vs Wade* would bring abortion to an end in the United States. This is not the case. It would move the responsibility of making the decision as to whether abortion is legal to the individual state level. That means this issue will remain with us for quite some time. Please keep this and all the people it involves in your prayers.

THIS WEEK:

THEOLOGY ON TAP: Friday night at the Thirsty Dog Taproom. Doors open at 7PM.

MEMORIAL DAY: Mass is at 9AM followed by a Pot Luck Breakfast! Rectory offices are closed this day.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

Launch of Eucharistic Revival

OPENING MASS, PROCESSION, AND XLT

JUNE 11, 2022

- 4:30 pm Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
- Followed by Eucharistic Procession to St. Peter Church (1533 Superior Avenue)
- XLT to start around 6:15 pm
- Social to follow XLT
- All are welcome!



Bishop Maliesic to Preside Mass and XLT



Fr. Damian Ference to Preach XLT



FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

This week's letter appears as though it is a draft of the very first letter sent out to the parishioners of the new parish known as St. Sebastian, in West Akron.

St. Sebastian Church
Akron, Ohio

Dear Friend and Parishioner:

In the proud march of our cherished Akron to a place among the foremost cities of the land, there has been a large and proportionate increase in her Catholic population. Existing churches and schools become overcrowded. Old St. Vincent's, as majestic in her service as venerable in her age, has since felt the heavy pressure of her western growth. With all her excellent facilities, St. Vincent could no longer cope with the ever-increasing population.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop has decreed the establishment of a new parish in the populous western section of our city. The center of (Portage Path) will be the dividing line.

In the separation, heartaches will naturally develop. Separation from first loves and cherished traditions always hurt, at least until the adjustment to new faces and to new scenes has been effected. We move out of the old homestead with feelings of regret, but ere long we are happy and satisfied in our newly built home.

To this newly established parish, the Rt. Rev. Bishop has appointed me, your humble servant, as its pastor. I take this opportunity to greet you most heartily. As a native-born son and a laborer in the priesthood on my native soil for several years, I come not as a stranger into a strange land.

The letter goes on for some paragraphs assuring the parishioners of the new parish and that taking on the debt of a new building is both necessary and manageable. "A DOLLAR A WEEK will be the standard contribution."

The Rt. Rev. Bishop has placed the new parish under the patronage of St. Sebastian, one of the outstanding martyrs of the early Church. He is neither Celt, nor Teuton, nor Latin, nor Slav, but a universal patron. We shall invoke St. Sebastian to implant in our hearts that strong faith which impelled him to lay down his life for Christ.

We are now a distinct parish . . . We will gather at Rankin School, Storer and Stadelmann Ave., on Sunday mornings. Entrance will be from Storer Ave. Holy Masses will be at 6:30, 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00. Confessions will not be heard in the school building. The Missionary Father who will help the pastor with the Sunday Masses, will hear confession at St. Vincent's on Saturdays, future years it may mean a little something to have been present on the first Sunday of Divine worship in St. Sebastian's parish. It may seem a little strange to assist at Mass in a school building, but we promise to try to avoid all hardships.

The pastor will continue to live temporarily at St. Thomas's Hospital. For sick calls or other business call Lincoln 724. Please to pass this information along to your neighbors. I may not have them on our mailing list yet. I have enclosed envelopes for the month of August. The list of contributors and contributions will be published periodically.

With God's holy grace and blessing, we shall succeed in extending His kingdom in our midst. Your pastor is dedicating his life for your welfare. In return he craves your wholehearted loyalty and support.

Yours very respectfully,

Hilary A. Zwisler

What an exciting time! I can only imagine what it would have been like to be given some boundaries by the Bishop and told, "Go establish a parish!" Can you picture Fr. Zwisler in his office at St. Thomas Hospital typing this letter out on an old fashioned typewriter and debating what he should say by way of introduction to those who suddenly find themselves in a new parish without so much as a church building? As thrilling of a time that this might be, I am grateful that I find myself in a wonderfully established parish with dedicated parishioners, though we are still called to evangelize! We are called to bring our brothers and sisters to the Eucharist, both those fellow Catholics who have fallen out of practice and those who have yet to be introduced to Him sacramentally. St. Sebastian, pray for us to continue this great mission that began in 1928.

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>

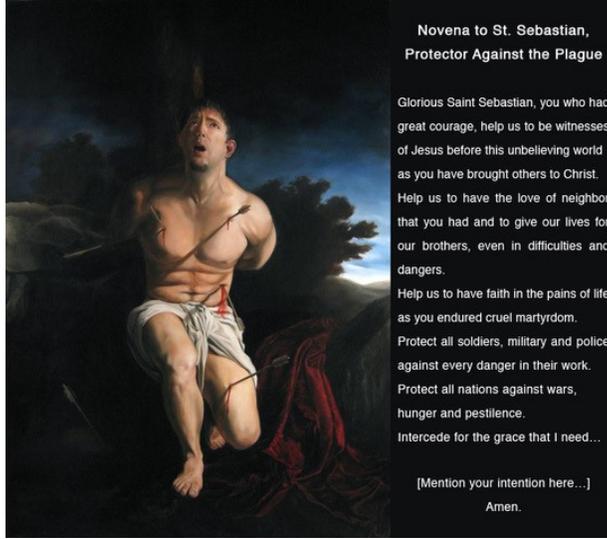
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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, 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, Jenny Kerrigan, Jean Labate, Dr. Dan Lehnhoff, Ann Loftus, 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 and Ann Zsembik.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck
St. Sebastian, pray for us.
St. Philip Neri, 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.

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

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