**Pulse of the Parish**

**April 2021**

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| **Parish Council Member** | **Summary** |
| **Christina** | **Altar servers:** All is running smoothly. 18/44 servers are back serving.The kids are great at showing up for the Masses they are scheduled for. There’s a couple folks who are fast to fill in where there’s a need, and Charlie the seminarian plugs gaps and shepherds the lost.**AV Ministry:**Wayne asks about ‘the long-term plan for livestreaming with the proposed return to the Sunday obligation. I think there’s a good argument for long-term livestreaming weddings and funerals as there can be barriers to attendance even in non-pandemic times. But should we continue the Sunday stream once the Sunday obligation returns?’**Father says: Yes the Diocese will continue to ask parishes to reach the homebound once the Sunday obligation returns****U**pdate on last month’s question on student youth technicians:* two currently trained and another two who are interested in learning.

Current issue with technician coverage is weddings and funerals.**Father says: Prehaps the Mother of Sorrows Support Group can help for Funerals****Girl Scouts & Brownies:*** Looking into My Promise My Faith pin
* Cookie sales went well
* Working on the tree badge - have offered to look after the apple trees in the St. Sebastian Garden

**Jr. and Sr. High Youth Ministry:*** Jr. High Youth Night was Sunday 4/16/2021 from 6:30-8:00 at Byrider Hall, 4 attended
* Jr. High youth camp planned for July - opportunities for volunteerism
* Jr High retreat to Steubenville – June 11-13. 6-8 students going

**Parish foundation:*** Save the Date – September 16, 2021 – Foundation’s 50th Anniversary.
* Annual Foundation Scholarship Mass – March 25th – Foundation awarded 23 scholarships totaling $13,000
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| **Jennifer** | * Sent her a clipping from ABJ about different churches in a listing and asked why St. Sebastian was not included.
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| **Jack** |  |
| **Ed** | **Right To Life****Pat Varga and Rita Vitali (parishioner) will meet to discuss asking St. Sebastian parishioners to “Stand and Pray” at the State Rd. abortion center in Cuyahoga Falls. Pat would like to put a recruitment announcement in the parish bulletin.** **Betty Reagan mentions that there will be no Mother’s Day Carnation Sale on May 9. Apparently, there is a shortage of flowers available due to Covid and the prices have risen prohibitively.** **Saint Vincent de Paul****President B. Smith reports that rent and utility requests have declined temporarily due to government Covid directed funds. Food requests have increased probably because there were no directed government funds for food.** **Still not doing home visits but will be discussing that after May 1when whether warms. Two members are over 80 and two others are over 65 so their comfortability with home visitation will be honored. Perhaps can start meeting with clients on porches or in driveways. He reports that all members have or will soon have both Covid shots.**  |
| **Marcy** | * Lynn hopes to have choirs back by the Fall as well as concerts.
* People have asked about outdoor masses this summer- will be considered.
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| **Tracie** | * Pre-Cana was a success with five couples in attendance. Several changes were made to accommodate the Covid 19 pandemic safety protocols.
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| **Ivan** | * Knights of the Altar would like to be included.
* Hearing good things about mass and Father V. handling everything.
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| **Natalie** |  |
| **Jennie** | **Marketing:*** Please remember to spread the word and support the Spectacular
* New Family Picnic scheduled for August 19th
* Kindergarten/First grade dinner scheduled for October 1st
* BookWhen has been a successful tool for scheduling events
* One more BrickLot Bulletin before the end of the school year
* *Thank you to St. Sebastian Parish Council for supporting this year’s Spectacular….much appreciated!!!!!*

**Finance Council:*** 2 Seminarians coming in the summer
* School
	+ 350 students registered for next year. 8 students who are currently enrolled this year are not registered yet
	+ 40 students went through Kindergarten screening
	+ 46 registered in Pre-school
	+ Diocese provided tuition assistance for 4 families
* EMES(sp?) - government assistance program ~waiting on final number and what we can spend it on.
* Financial report -- Good March; better than last year. Easter contributions are at or above budget; contributions are appearing to get back to normal.
* Significant portfolio gains -- up 4% in Q1 2021.
* School expenses are up due to teacher aides and furniture purchases and COVID expenses
* School revenue and expenses are comparable from YTD 2020
* Phase 1 of the boiler (⅓ of expenses) is completed; Phase 2(AC and chiller) is beginning
* Roof is being fixed; Fence will be fixed.

**Grounds Crew*** Starting back with the first work day on Thursday, April 29th 9-11 meet at the shed, and Saturday May 1st; 9-11am.
* NEED HELP -- Can we put a request in the bulletin and Father’s letters? Experience is not needed to help, just willingness to help.
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| **Matt** | * **From Keith Johnson:**
	+ Just about multiple Council contacts
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| **Alex** | * **Bridge flights will be holding our annual dinner early in June.**
* **Little flower garden club is planning a luncheon at the Akron family restaurant.**
* **Welcoming Committee-- hoping once school lets out for the Summer we will be able to resume.**
* **Art and Environment-- I changed up the design this year and we've received lots of positive responses. As I always say, God provides the flowers and the Holy Spirit provides the inspiration...I, along with my helpers, just provide the sweat equity. :-) This year, we have a fresh supply of "reinforcement" flowers being delivered on the morning of April 30th just in time to brighten things up for First Holy Communion the following day. The flowers remain until May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday. Hopefully, not long after, we will be able to start arranging flowers grown in the Cutting Garden. (Although looking out at the snow that hardly seems likely, LOL.**
* **Legion of Mary--This weekend begins the sale of our raffle tickets for a donated 30" Our Lady of Fatima Statue, a $500 value. Tickets are $5 each of 3/$10. We are also giving an additional ticket to anyone who joins the Legion as an Active or Auxiliary member. We will be selling the tickets after weekend Masses this weekend and next. The drawing will be held after morning Mass on the Feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13th..**

**We have updated our new website (check it out--a work in progress but I'm kinda proud of where it's going...** [**www.LOMOLOH.org**](http://www.lomoloh.org/)**) with the counter for the daily rosaries for Mary's Birthday again. This year we will also hand out pledge cards so people don't need to remember to enter their rosaries for themselves. We have reserved Z Hall for Noon - 1:00 PM for Mary's Birthday Party on Sept. 12th. (We could not host it the Sunday before because we will actually be at the Cathedral that day celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Legion of Mary.)** **As you know we promoted the Consecration to St. Joseph and I provided links to the YouTube videos I created for the 33 days. We have published notices in the bulletin for each of the consecration periods available. Starting with May we will start putting in a monthly notice listing the Consecration start dates for both the BVM and St. Joseph.** **The First Friday Rosary is being led on Friday, May 7th--the 7 Joys. It's a Franciscan devotion which includes 72 Hail Marys to represent the 72 years Mary was on earth.** **The Prayer Line is up and running and we have actually gotten calls requesting prayers.** * **The Bereavement Ministry is ready to go but we have not yet been contacted by anyone. As we know there have been deaths of parishioners, I do have it on my list to confirm the mechanism by which we would be contacted.**

**Finally, our new Intermediate Junior praesidium will begin meeting in the next few months. There are currently 9 members. The second Adult praesidium is still coordinating schedules hoping to get that group going shortly thereafter. Eventually, as in next school year, we would like to start an elementary aged Junior praesidium. (We actually used to meet with them during the school day long ago.)**  |
| **Tiffany (if necessary)** |  |