



Rev. Mick Kopil

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When I was fourteen, people would tell me that I should be a priest, though they never told me why. Now that I'm fifty, I'm beginning to figure it out. I'm a priest for Christ and His Church, for Him, for the people of the Church and for me.

It took me about six years of prayer, reading, speaking with people, “seeing signs”, and more to finally realize that God was asking me to be a priest for Him. When I put on my vestments for Mass each day, I ask the Lord to cover me with the image of His Christ, so that people see Christ in me when I minister at Mass. It seems to me that God wants me to be a priest to help His people know Him, praise and thank Him, come to Him in their need, and desire complete unity with Him. He wants me to use the gifts He's given me to help His people on their way to Him. The best thing I can do as priest is get out of His way, and use what I have for Him and His glory.

At my ordination ten years ago, the Vocation Director presented me by name to Bishop Melczek. The Vocation Director attested to the fact that I was ready to serve as priest for the people of this diocese. Once the bishop had accepted me, those in attendance applauded, affirming that they, too, wanted me to be a priest. In essence, they were saying that they recognized God's gifts in me, and wanted me to help them on the way to salvation.

One of the questions often asked of me when I was a seminarian, and still asked of me as a priest is “Why do (did) you want to be a priest?” The reasons are varied and somewhat complicated. However, one of the reasons was to help people know that the all-powerful, all-present, all-loving God is always with them, cares about them, and desires to satisfy the longings of their heart. I find tremendous joy in celebrating the Mass, administering the sacraments, praying with people, and generally helping people to know Christ and to love His bride, the Church.

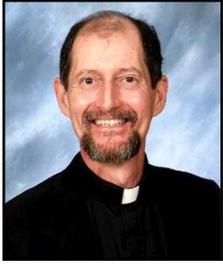
As you see, it seems to be God's will that I serve Him and the Church for His will, for the sake of the faithful, and for my own joy and salvation. Coming to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton at this time in my life's journey fills me with faith, hope, and love. I'm counting on the God-loving, generous people of this parish to help me find joy in ministry, and help me on my own journey to eternity with God. I hope that you will all allow me to accompany you as I participate in the ministry of Jesus' priesthood. Please know that I pray for you all daily. Please continue to pray for me.

May God bless us all as we journey to and with Christ Jesus. May our Blessed Mother intercede for us before the throne of her Son. May St. Elizabeth Ann Seton pray for us as we carry out our mission to bring Christ to the world and bring the world to Christ.

God bless you and your loved ones.

Fr. Mick

A Letter from Fr. Doug



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I came to St. Elizabeth Seton for the first time in August of 1987. Having been assigned to St. John the Evangelist in October of 1986, Bishop Norbert Gaughan, called me and said that he was re-assigning me as the Neumann Chaplain for

St. Teresa of Avila for Valparaiso University.

The reason for my arrival at St. Elizabeth Seton was simple. Having been ordained for less than a year (September 6, 1986), Bishop Gaughan told me there was an apartment for the chaplain at St. Teresa of Avila. However, he felt the college women might be too much of a temptation for me if I lived on my own during my first year of priesthood. I was to live with Fr. Sroka for a year.

In exchange for room and board at St. Elizabeth Seton, I was asked to celebrate the 7:30 am Sunday Mass and then in the summer would take my turn with the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses. So you see, you had a part in my ongoing formation and the maintenance of my vow of celibacy and chastity.

After a year, I did move into the chaplain's apartment downtown, but Fr. Sroka allowed me to offer one Mass each Sunday through 1995. So what a pleasure to be able to invite Fr. Sroka and Fr. Gosnell the chance to say a monthly Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton when I became your pastor.

Aside from the humorous way the hand of God first brought me to St. Elizabeth Seton, and then brought me back to all of you as your pastor when Fr. Gosnell retired, I want all of you to know how deeply grateful I am to all of you for welcoming me into this community. I have been blessed to work with all of you, staff and parishioners alike.

As a parish, and as individuals I have experienced your living faith. During my time with you, wonderful new ministries were envisioned and brought to life. I will never forget the first week I was here, when Andy Byers, our Youth Minister approached me and asked if he/we could try and raise enough money to send the members of our Youth Group to World Youth Day. When I asked him how much did he hope to



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Totus Tuus 2018



Looking for some awesome summer fun with a big dose of faith? Totus Tuus is coming to St. Elizabeth Seton again for one week: July 22—27th.

Registration is required and can be done at the church or online at our parish website. This program is run by a team of four college students/seminarians trained by the Diocese of Gary. Who can attend? Great question!

Children from grades 1 to 6 will have their fun filled time of sharing faith activities, songs, games and lunch Monday through Friday from 9:00am to



2:30pm. For the younger children, many fun activities are designed to help impart to them an understanding and love of our Lord as well as other parts of Catholic faith.

The Middle school/high school youth events are for grades 7 –12 and run from Sunday through Thursday from 7:30pm to 9pm. This summer event is NOT bible camp or summer school faith formation. The team's goal is to put the youth in contact with the Lord so that they can develop a deep personal relationship with Christ. Topics important to young people will be discussed with fellowship and fun with team members. Details online and at church.

Faith Formation Appreciation Dinner

An Appreciation dinner was held May 23, 2018 with a Fiesta theme and plenty of great food. See everyone in the Fall!



Congratulations to Diana Silva and Bob Hynes for 5 years of service, Rose Ruschak for 25 years of service and to Carol Holmes for 40 years of service.

St. Rock Haiti and our Lenten Alms

As many of our know, Fr. Romuald told us the people of St. Rock need our help in retaining parish school teachers by raising their salaries. Secondly they need help funding the parish church's new roof and other church repairs. I would like to give you a few updates regarding our work with St. Rock



When you “twin” with a parish in Haiti, one of the most important things that needs to be done is the creation of a mutually agreed upon “Twinning Covenant”. All five parish representatives that went to Haiti with Bishop Hying met with Theresa Patterson in May. Having worked with 230 churches, she is an authority on drafting “twinning covenants” After meeting with Mrs. Patterson, our Haiti Twinning Council finished writing a “Twinning Covenant” and mailed it to Fr. Romuald and the parishioners of St. Rock. Our Pastoral Council Chair, Pam Takacs and I signed the covenant. If Fr. Romuald and the Pastoral Council of St. Rock like it as it was written, they will sign the covenant and send us a copy. Or they may amend the covenant and ask us to sign it with changes. A signed covenant directs the use of funds and guide all joint mission work. It is normally reviewed by each church every five years, and reaffirmed. During Lent, I suggested that we might consider donating some of our Lenten Alms for our brothers and sisters at St. Rock parish. Our Lenten Alms donations exceeded \$4,000.00 We sent \$2,000.00 to our diocese and they wire that money to Fort Liberte. As part of the protocol, I email Fr. Romuald so he knows what we are sending for his parish. To date we have received another \$1,000.00+ in donations. So all total we have collected just over \$5,000.00. The balance of the money I have sent off to our chancery to be held for St. Rock. Upon the joint signing of our Twinning Covenant with St. Rock we will have our diocese wire the rest of our gift.



Alms raised for the children of St Rock

St. Seton POST SYNOD Plans Kick Off in JULY

On June 20th, Bishop Donald Hying met with our Post Synod Team Leaders. During his visit he asked our team leaders called “Champions” how the Diocese could help our parish meet our Synod Priorities. Bishop Hying personally affirmed each leader for taking on the challenge of helping to create some very bold new ministry initiatives. Then he asked us to explain our plans for inviting parishioners to our first meeting for each of our six Priorities. Our Post Synod Priorities and their related goals are on our website. In July, our “Champions” will begin contacting parishioners who have already signed up to help with one of our Post Synod Priorities, to let them know the day and time of their first meeting.

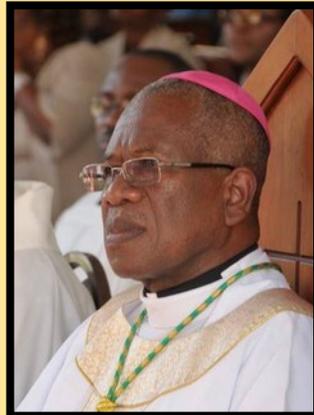
There is still time for you to join this exciting ministry. Volunteering your vision, giving some of your time and talent to any one of the six initiatives, would go a long way towards their success. You can easily volunteer by signing up in the parish lobby or by contacting the parish office at 464 1624.

Ivan Pierce is Champion Priority 1 Goal 1: *To empower the faithful to share their faith in Jesus (Evangelization)*. Deacon Kim Eaton Sr. will Champion Priority 1, Goal 2: *Welcoming Catholics Home (Evangelization)*. Sheila Vaclavik is our Champion for Priority 2, Goal 1: *To bring Catholics back to the love of the Word and the Eucharist (Discipleship)*. Deb Poturalski will Champion Priority 2 Goal 2: *To enhance Faith Formation Events for young adults and parents*. Priority 3 Goal 1 has Tim Mathew as our Champion: *To develop intentional ministries that animate and inspire teens and young adult*. Our Champions for Priority 3 Goal 2 is Chuck and Denise Conlon: *To draw young adults and families back into Catholic parish life and worship*. I encourage all of you to pray for the success of each initiative and the people we want to serve. Lastly, I ask each parish ministries to look for a way to support our Synod goals. [Picture by Tim Mathew]

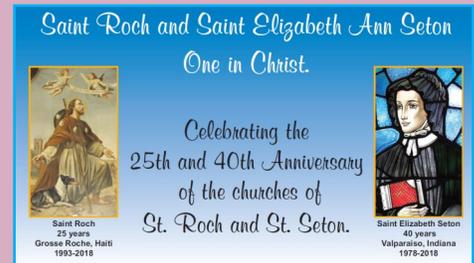


BISHOP QUESNEL OF FORTE LIBERTA COMING TO ST SETON

Bishop Donald Hying has just announced that *on November 17th, Bishop Quesnel Alphonse, SMM, the bishop of Forte Liberte, Haite will be coming to the Diocese of Gary and will celebrate the 5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton parish with all of us and Bishop Hying.* Bishop Quesnel Alphonse, wants to meet us and personally thank us for the work we have begun by entering into a sister relationship with the parish of St. Rock. Further details of the reception will be forthcoming from Fr. Mick Kopil and our parishes Haiti Twinning



This year will mark the 25th anniversary for St. Rock and St. Elizabeth Seton's 40th anniversary as a parish. In celebration of this milestone for our two parishes and as a way of celebrating our unfolding "sisterhood in Christ", Alice Erickson designed a banner for each parish to mark this milestone in our respective parishes. One banner is written in English and the other in Haitian Creole. The HTC is exploring the possibility of seeing if we can invite Fr. Romuald to come and visit us, possibly when Bishop Quesnel Alphonse is comes to our diocese and our parish.

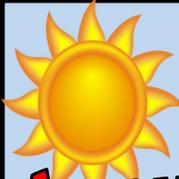


Haiti Twinning Council

The next time the parish updates our Welcome Book we will need to include our newest ministry which is our sister relationship with St. Rock Parish in Grosse Roche Haiti and it's parish ministry body called the Haiti Twinning Council [HTC]. At the May Pastoral Council Meeting, I explained that members of our Haiti Twinning Council have been working to fulfill the Pastoral Council's directive that our parish draft a "twinning covenant" with St. Rock and form a Haiti mission plan for St Seton.

In consultation with the Pastoral Council, it was their recommendation that our Haiti Twinning Council [HTC], consist of the pastor, one of the two Social Justice liaison members from the Pastoral Council and seven parishioners. A draft document has been created for the bylaws of our parish's Haiti Twinning Council [HTC]. It is based on a document that was recommend to our parish by a church that has had a sister parish in Haiti for twenty years.

Our working body presently consists of Robert Hynes, Angelique Trevino, Alice Erickson, Paul Thomas, Robert Lukas and your outgoing pastor. The Pastoral Council Social Justice liaison is XXXXXX. The final configuration and approval of the bylaws of the HTC will have to be completed and approved under the leadership of your new pastor Fr. Mick Kopil.

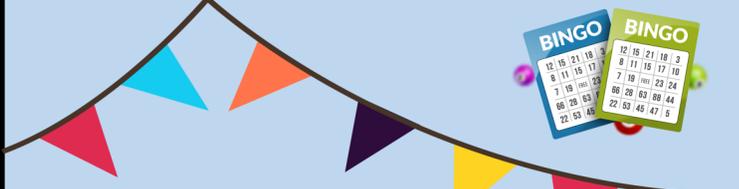



Annual Parish Picnic

Sunday, July 22nd

Noon - 3:00 pm

Please sign-up in the vestibule.



The parish will be responsible for the meat, drinks, tableware, condiments, bread and grills. We would ask those attending to bring a dish to share...veggies, hot or cold, wonderful desserts, use your imagination! If you have some special food to grill for yourself or others, there will be plenty of space on the grills.

****Helpers are needed in several areas: grilling, setting up, cleaning up, whatever. Please call the parish office at 464-1624, email us at parishoffice@sseton.com or sign up in the vestibule to volunteer your help, it would be greatly appreciated!!**

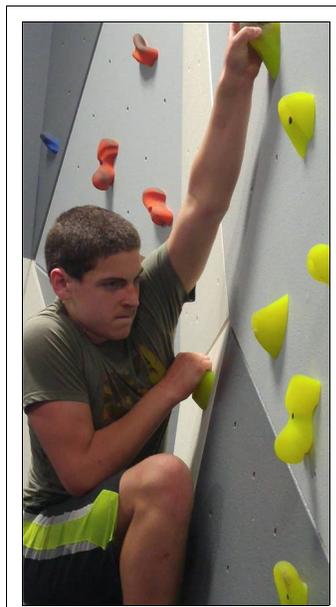
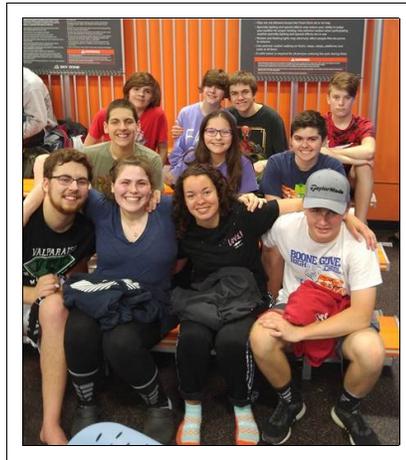



Seton Youth Group

May 26th, Youth Group
Bonfire with 9 square,
football and spud games.



May 13th Skyzone in Schereville, IN



You are invited to attend our morning Scripture Study every Tuesday at 9 am starting in September. We will be studying 2nd Corinthians by Max Lucado. We will also have an evening Scripture Study every Monday at 7 pm starting in September.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



August 3rd
September 7th

Come and adore the Lord
Adoration begins after the 8am Mass with
Benediction at 11:40am

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth

- **Formed.org:** Spiritual opportunities for Adults, Teens and Children. Enter parish access code **QH8MQK**.
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** Friday, August 3, and Sept. 7.
- **Totus Tuus [Totally Yours]** - July 23rd to July 27th for Youths entering grades 1-6. July 23rd to July 27th for Youths entering grades 7-12.
TOTUS INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION IN THE VESTIBULE & ON WEBSITE SESETON.COM
- **Tired of using or forgetting your envelopes?** Manage your donation online with WeShare. It's simple to use and you will never have to worry about forgetting your envelope. Go to seseton.com and click on the button (We Share/Online Giving)). If you need help, please call the office 464-1624.

Save the Date

- **Parish Picnic:** Sunday, July 22nd
- **Faith Formation Classes:** Begins September 10, 2018
- **Red Cross Blood Drive:** Thursday, September 20, 2018
- **Catholics Returning Home:** will start up in the fall. More information will be sent out in August.

raise he said about \$40,000.00. I thought to myself "is this possible? can he do this? will this community support this goal?" As we all know, the answer was YES and we sent our youth not once but twice to World Youth Day and did many other youth events at the same time.

Last year, with the blessings of our Pastoral Council we began this amazing spiritual mission of entering into a sister relationship with St. Rock parish in Grosse Roche, Haiti. While we have just begun this relationship with our brothers and sisters in Haiti, I believe as we develop our friendship, the support offer each other, will deepen our life with Christ. The face of God

always looks upon those who love as Christ has loved us. To hear *and* respond to the needs of our brothers and sister in Christ, will bring God greatest blessing upon us. Jesus' promise: "And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward." Mt 10: 42.

I want you to know how grateful I am for all the ways we were able to collaborate in the mission of this parish. You have inspired me by your example of generous stewardship. Over these nine years many new ministries have been started and a list of accomplishments could be numerated. Whatever the milestones or the accomplishments we have had during the time I have served with you, they are not mine or for that matter neither are they really ours, they are the Lord's!

It has been a privilege to serve

you as pastor. If I have failed any of you or hurt you during my time here, I am very sorry. May the Good Shepherd bless you all. Please pray for me and know that dear as you are to me, you will be in my prayers. I wish you and this awesome St Elizabeth community God's blessings!. Fr. Doug



Saint
**ELIZABETH
ANN SETON**



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SETON NEWSLETTER

Phone: 219-464-1624; **Fax:** 219-465-7673

Email: parishoffice@seseton.com **Website:** seseton.com

Facebook: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

Masses: Mon. Tues., Wed. & Fri. at 8 am

Saturday, 5 pm

Sunday, 7:30 am, 9 am & 11 am