

# Summer Newsletter

"EMPOWERED BY WORD AND SACRAMENT...LET US SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST"



Rev. Mick Kopil



Bishops, Successors of the Apostles

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart." (Jer. 3:15) Prophesying for God, Jeremiah the prophet spoke these words to people who desperately needed to know that God's love and care for them. Jesus, after rising from the dead, remembering these words of the prophet, told Peter, "Feed My lambs". (Jn 21:15). And thus, God promised and reiterated His promise, to always care for His people through shepherds who oversee His flock. These "overseers", in Greek "episcopoi", have continued into our own time. We call them bishops.

In an old movie, Bing Crosby explained to some young people, "Bishops are like umpires. You have to have them to call the close decisions." If everything God gives us He gives in love, then God has given us bishops out of His love for us, to satisfy a need that we have.

If you've ever been to an ordination of a bishop, you know it's a beautiful liturgy. The bishop-elect is assisted by two priests, showing his fraternity in the priesthood of Jesus. A decree from the Holy Father decreeing his ordination is read, and at least three bishops must be present to show that his ordination and appointment to govern the diocese is the will of the Church in the Spirit. Before ordination, the bishop-elect makes promises to teach the faith and proclaim the Gospel as it has been handed on by the Apostles of whom he is now a successor. At the very end of the liturgy, as the Church sings praise to God, the new bishop goes throughout the church giving everyone a blessing. In these rituals, he is reminded that he is to teach, govern and sanctify in the name of Christ. So, we can see that the office of bishop was not just once part of God's plan, but is still very much something God wants for us.

At this time, the Diocese of Gary does not have a bishop. The priest College of Consultors (presumably by this time) has selected a priest to be the Diocesan Administrator, someone to oversee the Church of Gary until a new bishop is appointed by the Holy Father. Meanwhile, the Holy Father's ambassador to the United States, Archbishop Pierre, will be asking other bishops and some priests who they think should be the next Bishop of Gary. In time, he will make a recommendation to the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops who will then make a recommendation to Pope Francis. The expectation is that sometime this fall, hopefully, Pope Francis will name a bishop for Gary. If he is already a bishop, he will have two months to be installed in our diocese. If he is still a priest, he will have four months to be ordained and begin to serve the diocese as bishop.

What does all of this mean for us at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church? It means that God loves us as much as ever and will still take care of us in this portion of our flock. It means that He will send us a shepherd, as He promised, to take care of us in His love. It means that somewhere there is a priest who is going to be our next bishop. What can we do? As always, pray. Pray for Bishop Hying as he begins this new phase of his life as bishop in Madison. Pray for the College of Consultors and the Diocesan Administrator that they serve with the heart of the Good Shepherd. Pray for those discerning who our new bishop will be. And, pray for that man that he will be who God wants him to be for the Church of Gary, for God's glory and for the salvation of souls.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL EASTER BASKET PREP

This year we prepared 50 Easter Baskets to those in need. Thank you for your continued support and for helping out with this great cause.





## HAITI TWINNING UPDATE

Fr. Romuald Pierre, pastor of St. Roch parish in the Diocese of Fort Liberte in Haiti, visited St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on February 22-24, 2019. Among the many activities during his stay was the celebration of all four weekend masses with the parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Fr. Romuald presented our parish with an original painting from Haiti as a gift from St. Roch Church. The painting is on display in the parish hall. The weekend culminated in a planning session with Fr. Romuald and the Haiti Twinning Committee and liaisons from the Parish Pastoral Council. Among the future initiatives discussed was the potential of a 6-8-person team visit to St. Roch Church, possibly this fall or early next year. The purpose of this visit would be to strengthen the bond between the two parishes and to assess possible twinning opportunities.



Fr. Romuld celebrates mass at St. Elizabeth





St. Roch Children

One of the main obstacles St. Roch faces is attracting and retaining school teachers for their 250-plus students. The public schools pay their teachers considerably more. In April of 2018, our parish sent \$2,000 to St. Roch, which allowed their parish to increase teacher salaries from \$52 per month to \$71 per month. After completing a Twinning Covenant between St. Roch and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, in December of 2018 an additional \$4,000 was transferred to St. Roch for continued support of the school and as needed for help within the parish.

St. Roch Parishioners

In discussions with Fr. Romuald during his visit, his top priority continues to be support for the school and his students. Textbooks and school supplies are a not readily available for the students at St. Roch Church and the larger community of Grande Roche. Fr. Romuald purposed the creation of a book warehouse to provide books to the students of St. Roch as well as the public schools within the community. The cost of this endeavor would be in the range of \$10,000. The Haiti Twinning committee agreed that this should be our next priority and have begun making plans to support this activity. The committee is also exploring the opportunities and cost of sending supplies to our sister parish.

Due to the generosity of the parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, we have currently assisted St. Roch Church with \$6,000 (as stated above) and we have an additional \$9,500 being held by the diocese for the future support of St. Roch Church. The Haiti Twinning Committee thanks the parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church for their financial and spiritual support of our twinning arrangement with St. Roch Church.

# ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH



Looking for some awesome summer fun with a bia dose of faith? Totus Tuus is coming to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton again for one week: July 21-26th Registration is required an 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, signs, games an lunch Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. For the

signed 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 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. 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 discussed with fellowship and fun with team members. Details online and at church.

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

### **OPPORTUNITES FOR**

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

- Formed.org: Spiritual opportunities for Adults, Teens and Children. Enter parish access code QH8MQK.
- Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, July 5th, Aug. 2nd. Sept. 6th.
- **Tuesday morning Scripture Study:** This group meets every Tuesday morning at 9 am, Sept. through May. Please contact Sue
- Dywan, 219-988-2087.
- 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 <u>seseton.com</u> and click on the button (WeShare/Online Giving)). If you need help, please call the office 464-1624.



Pledges and donations to help the parish reach our CSA goal of \$52,800.00 are greatly appreciated. If you have not made a pledge, you may do so by writing a check to St. Elizabeth Seton and mark memo "CSA 2019" and drop it in the collection basket. Thank you for helping make our goal.



Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ulanowski & Family



With Deepest Sympathy

Lily Richmond Donald (Tara) Kalamir



Check us out on our Website and Facebook.





EASTER SEASON Holy Thursday mass & Holy Saturday Masses.

### Living Stations of the Cross

St. Elizabeth Seton Youth prepared for summer by presenting the annual Live Stations of the cross and enjoying a night at Skyzone. This summer's activities include helping with the parish picnic, taking a kayak trip, and enjoying fellowship and fun at Saturday night meetings. We are also preparing to send a group to the biennial NCYC conference in Indianapolis in November.



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**Return Service Requested** 

