



Dear Parishioners,

Just a reminder: the Archbishop's Annual Appeal has begun. You should have received information on the Appeal and a pledge card in the mail. If you did not, materials about the Appeal will be available here at the church once these are received from the Archdiocese in the next couple of weeks. You can return your pledge card here at church or mail it directly to the Archdiocese. The Annual Appeal supports many programs and ministries in our Archdiocese, especially the services provided by the various archdiocesan agencies. On behalf of Archbishop Lucas, I thank you for your generous support of the Annual Appeal again this year.

I know that some have been wondering about the status of the Religious Education building project. Vrana Construction has been chosen for the general contractor. We are waiting on approval of the construction contract by the Archdiocese and for the completion of Vrana's review of the architectural plans to determine any cost-saving items that might be possible. It is my hope and prayer, and that of the parish and finance councils, that we can present to the parish the completed plans in October and, then, get started with construction. I wish I could make the process go faster, but thoroughness and coordination of all involved obviously takes a lot of time as we all have experienced. Please continue to keep the project in your prayers.

God bless you, Fr. Gutowski

Mass Intentions for the Week

SEPT. 30 THRU OCT. 6

Monday	Lorraine Lamb
Tuesday	Elaine Koczur, Mildred Hintenach & Joanie Alonso
Wednesday	Renato Girolami
Thursday	Priest's Intention
Friday	Loretta Patry
Saturday	John & Rosemary Francavilla (50th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday	People of St. Joseph

URGENT!

MONEY COUNTERS WANTED

Due to a directive from the Archdiocese, we must have teams of money counters to count and deposit the collection money each week. We need three teams consisting of three people. So far we have 5 people or almost two teams of three. We need one more team plus one person to give us the three teams we need. The team will meet immediately after Sunday Mass or Monday morning at the latest and count the collection money from both Saturday and Sunday. Each team will count for one month and then continue on that three month rotation for the entire year. If a sub is needed, you can call a member of the other teams. One member of the team will make a Sunday overnight deposit of all the money at the Springfield Bank. It does not take long and is an extremely important job. If you have questions or are willing to help, please call Sharon VanTassell at 402-203-4708 or give your name to Fr. Matt.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Once again we are requesting your e-mail addresses. It is such a good way for us to contact you as a parish and know you have received the communication. A test e-mail has been sent this past week. If you did not receive one, we do not have your correct e-mail address. Please put your current address in Sharon VanTassell's church mailbox. They will not be shared with anyone else.

LIFE CHAIN

Just a reminder that we will be doing Life Chain again down at the corner of Highway 50 & Platteview Road. The time will be Sunday, October 6, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to bring a radio and listen to KGBI. We will have signs there to hold. If you need to bring a chair that is fine as well. Please feel comfortable for the hour. If you have any questions, please call Eric Hayes at 402-253-3037 or 402-670-729

WANTED: MINUTES RECORDER

The Parish Council is in need of someone who can take and transcribe minutes of their meetings. If you can help please call Ted Boro at 402-505-7197 or Donna Urbanski at 402-297-3292

WALK OF FAITH

On Saturday, October 19, the Holy Family Shrine will assist in having a pilgrimage to the Shrine called "Walk for Faith in the Year of Faith." It will start at Schramm Park at 8:30am and participants will walk along Fishery Road to the Shrine - it is about a 5.4 mile walk. Once at the Shrine, there will be confessions followed by Mass around noon. After the event, buses will take people back to their cars at Schramm Park. This pilgrimage will encourage people to participate in receiving a Plenary Indulgence since the Shrine is a designated site for that. This is an excellent time for everyone to take part in a prayerful walk centered on the saints and a spirit of penance.

Please call the Shrine at [402-332-4565](tel:402-332-4565) for more information.



Please
silence
your phone
in church

SHE LOVES ME NOT

Distinguished writer and Omaha native, Ron Hansen, will read from his latest collection of stories, *She Loves Me Not*, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 7 in the Harper Center Hixson-Lied Auditorium. *She Loves Me Not* contains some of the stories from his first collection, *Nebraska*, including the first story, "Wild in Omaha," a playful reimagining of Oscar Wilde's actual visit to Omaha in March of 1882. Copies of several of his books will be available for a book signing following the reading. The event is free and open to the public. Ron is a 1970 graduate of Creighton University and a Deacon in the Diocese of San Jose.



"Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames." -Luke 16:24



Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Good News Reflection

September 29, 2013

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146:(1b) 7-10

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Luke 16:19-31

What was the rich man's sin in this Sunday's Gospel story? What tormented him after he died? Being wealthy is not sinful; what tortured his soul was his decision to not share his wealth with Lazarus while he had the opportunity.

Death is not a closing of life; it's the opening up of our souls so we become fully alive in the truth of God's love. Death awakens us to the full reality of who God is and all the gifts he has given us and how well – or how poorly – we've invested those gifts.

Whenever we share with others the gifts that we've received, we're investing in God's kingdom. In God's economy, our investments always pay off very well. We receive more than we give away so that we can share even more!

In contrast, when we protect and keep something for ourselves, we lose it like a flower that's "protected" in a dark box. The flower wilts. It cannot grow in the dark. Everything we try to protect ends up useless and even poisonous: We stagnate spiritually as well as emotionally. The gift rots. Our selfishness destroys our union with God who is the Master of Generosity.

Every day, we're given opportunities to share something – some blessing from God – with others.

Perhaps what made the rich man in the parable turn away from Lazarus was his

disease. Since Lazarus was covered in sores, we can surmise that he was a leper and highly contagious.

This leads us to the question: Do we share less because we feel disgust toward those who need what we have? Or maybe fear holds us back. Or resentment or unforgiving anger. To be united to God and experience everlasting joy, we cannot live in this state. We have to let love motivate us. Love has no limits; it's always generous.

In the second reading, we hear: "Compete well for the faith." Against whom are we competing? Ourselves! Are you holier today than you were the last time you had an opportunity to be generous? Are you spiritually stronger because you've worked hard at becoming more loving and generous?

Questions for Personal Reflection:

Bring to mind someone you find disgusting and unlikable. How generous are you toward him or her? If you've missed an opportunity to share a blessing with this person, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will give you strength, through special grace, to overcome this sin.

Questions for Family & Community Faith Sharing:

Give examples of times when people turn away from opportunities to be generous. Explain reasons why this happens. How have you personally been a Lazarus who was denied what you needed because of someone's prejudice? What did you learn from that experience that changed your own attitudes about generosity?