



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Last weekend, October 22, the second collection was taken up to support the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, also known as World Mission Sunday. The World Mission Sunday Collection is the only mandatory collection held every year in every single Catholic parish in the world. The theme for the collection last week was “Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move.” The monies received bring warmth and hope to communities worldwide.

To learn more about the Pope’s missions throughout the world I encourage you to visit, **OneFamilyInMission.org**. Some of the information offered through the website is that over 26 million children are served and supported, 844,000 catechists, 258,540 religious sisters, 38,140 seminarians, 12,000 health centers and 8,750 shelters. Without a doubt, your support to the Pope’s Missions on World Mission Sunday impacts the lives of many people in the more than 1,100 dioceses that benefit from the collection.

Earlier this year many parishioners participated in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey offered at our parish and parishes across the Archdiocese of Chicago. Thanks once again for taking the time and completing the survey. There is a wealth of information contained in the responses. The Archdiocese worked with a company to process the electronic and written surveys from each parish across the Archdiocese. The summary of those responses was received in late June.

With the help of a parish consultant from the Catholic Leadership Institute, who happens to be a parishioner, Peggy Pandaleon, we have started reviewing and reflecting on the data and information received. In the next few months we are hoping to engage more parishioners as we come up with goals that can be the focus of our local Evangelization efforts in the coming years.

How can the Church of St. Mary engage more parishioners in active participation in their faith?

How can the Church of St. Mary make the Mass more welcoming for all ages?

How can the Church of St. Mary provide opportunities for parishioners to come together in community, in fellowship, in service, and in faith?

These three questions are not the goals that are being addressed but they offer a broad scope review of what we can do and believe the Holy Spirit is guiding us to do. We are part of the local Church in Cook and Lake Counties that is striving to bring people to Jesus, in the Church and in the Sacraments. We are part of the Universal Church that has been reflecting on and preparing for the Eucharistic Renewal in 2024. We are praying for the Holy Spirit to be present to and to continue to lead the worldwide Roman Catholic Church through the Synod and into the future.

Prayer is to be at the heart of any and every activity that we embark on as followers of Jesus. Your continued prayers for parish leadership and parishioners are most appreciated. Your prayerful reflection on your call to “live a Eucharistic life” is encouraged. Our hopeful prayer for the movement of the Holy Spirit at the Synod in Rome provides a spiritual connection with the gatherings, conversations, prayer services, and Masses taking place in the Vatican these days uniting us with Pope Francis, Cardinal Cupich, and all participants. As we come together this weekend at the Church of St. Mary, to be nourished anew in Word and Sacrament, may we faithfully continue to live the greatest and second commandment as offered to us in Matthew’s Gospel.

You are invited to participate in the All Souls Memorial Mass on Thursday, November 2 at 7:00pm. This annual Mass is offered for all who have died from our parish this past year with reverence, grace, and a lived hope in Eternal Life.

God bless you in living “Eucharistic lives” of gratitude, generosity and compassion,