

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE



Today we welcome all mothers of our parish, with their children and families who pray with them at St. Mary's. In the Prayers of the Faithful we also remember and pray for all of our mothers who are sharing eternity with our Blessed Mother. In this Easter season – if we are gathered with our moms at church or if our moms are looking down on us from heaven above – may the promises of Jesus bring peace to each and every one of us

Parishioners of St. Mary's, with Deacon Bob and Marietta Thomas and Fr. Radley, have been praying for us on their pilgrimage through Portugal, France, and Spain. This photograph to the right is of them praying in the convent of St. Teresa of Avila. It certainly appears that the joy of the Lord is with them from the smiles on their faces. I look forward to hearing more stories from the pilgrims upon their return to St. Mary's in the coming days.

One year ago, we welcomed Chase Hawkins to St. Mary's to serve the parish as our Youth Minister. In his first year Chase has been present to the students in the school, to the students in the Religious Education program, to members of the RCIA program, helping with the Adult Faith Formation Liturgy presentations and has been very actively engaged in getting to know students in high school and their families.

Chase hopes to continue to call together, in a supportive way, parents of our youth as well as the youth as they develop their friendship with Jesus during high school as a firm foundation for their lives. Following the example and the model of Jesus, all ministry is relational – interacting with others in Jesus. From Scripture and our lived faith tradition we know Jesus started the Church with 12 followers. With the support of parents, encouraging their students to participate actively in COR Youth Group, being part of a Parent Group working with Chase for our youth, the COR Youth Ministry will grow and expand.

The Archdiocese has shared the dramatic impact on the lives of adolescents when they no longer participate in the Mass or in the life of the Church. Unfortunately, many families with youth disengage from active participation in or around the time of the Sacrament of Confirmation. For others it may be when activities, such as travel sports leagues, consume untold hours of a family's schedule while in middle school. It cannot be overstated how much of an impact there is on the young people in a family that recognizes the importance of modeling faith in the home, being active in the life of the Church, and surrounding yourselves with people of similar values and morals.

Parents of students, 8th graders through high school, are invited to a meeting, conversation, and dialogue next Sunday, May 21, at 2:00pm in the Parish Center. Our 8th graders through high school seniors are invited to attend COR next Sunday, May 21, at 6:00pm for the *Amazing Race*. See details in today's bulletin and in the social media communications sent to all families of our youth. Chase is inviting people to RSVP so he can plan properly for these events.

We are recruiting volunteers to help feed the hungry. On Monday mornings, parishioners pick up food at the Lake Forest Jewel and deliver to the Holy Family Food Pantry in Waukegan. The parish is looking for a few more people to join the team in this ministry. The commitment and obligation are for once a month and takes 1.5 hours roundtrip each time. Please reach out to me if you are interested. Thanks!

God bless you in living Easter joy in our Risen Lord and Savior,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mike Macius". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

