



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Next Sunday, October 22, members of the COR Youth Group of St. Mary’s are going on a pilgrimage north of the border. Chase Hawkins, St. Mary’s Youth Minister, has invited our youth to “recharge with friends in the beauty of God’s creation” by participating in a seven-hour pilgrimage to Holy Hill in Wisconsin. Leaving St. Mary’s at 10:00am, they will journey north in ample time to attend the 12:00 Noon Mass at the Shrine.

If you haven’t been to or do not know about Holy Hill, I hope the following will change that for you. Located on 435 acres of glorious scenery on the highest elevation in Southeastern Wisconsin, Holy Hill is a destination for those looking to celebrate their faith in a sacred place of peace, beauty, and prayer. Under the care of the Discalced Carmelite Friars of Holy Hill, The Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians is open to the public and draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and sightseers annually. Visitors can attend daily Catholic Masses, enjoy the scenic views, and walk the life-sized Stations of the Cross in a serene setting. A café and large gift store are open year-round. I hope that many of our youth, encouraged and supported by their parents, will participate in this one-day pilgrimage offered by Chase Hawkins. If you are looking for a nice getaway this fall, perhaps a drive to Holy Hill is in your future.

Thanks for supporting the many efforts at the Church of St. Mary this October as we share our Respect for Life through many different agencies and their ministries to God’s children in need as we support mothers and newborns in need, help clothe our sisters and brothers, and care for migrants in our Archdiocese.

Once upon a time, a child was busy with an art project. Curious, her mother asked the young girl what she was doing. “Mom,” the young girl replied, “I am drawing a picture of God.” “Dear,” said the mother, “No one knows what God looks like.” The girl replied, “Well, you will know when I am finished!”

When beginning my day in prayer with jesuitprayer.org, the following prayer caught my heart and spirit. There is a richness to the prayer in its entirety as well as particular phrases of the prayer. The phrase, “Let us be more in love with You than with our notions of You” is one in particular.

Creator of the Universe
Preserve us from our own presumption
Do not let us close ourselves into ourselves
But open us continually into You.

Let us be more in love with You
Than with our notions of You.
Let us stop claiming to know everything
So that we may understand something.
Increase in us kindness,
Make us people who care
And who take care
Who venerate the truth
And recognize each other.
Draw us with an irresistible beauty.

— *Rabia Terri Harris (Prayers for a Thousand Years)*

May all of us always approach God with open hearts in our prayer and in our rich lives of faith, drawn to God’s irresistible beauty.

We welcome members of the Lake Forest – Lake Bluff St. Mary’s College Alumnae Association to the 10:00am Mass this Sunday. In a letter received by our Pastoral Associate, Lore Nugent; “Annually, pre-Covid, we used to celebrate our college Founder’s Day with a family Mass followed by breaking bread together at a luncheon. This year we hope to resurrect the tradition celebrating 179 years of the Sisters of the Holy Cross who sponsored and founded Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana at the lovely Church of St. Mary.”

All are invited and welcome to enjoy Donut Sunday this weekend after the 8:00am and 10:00am Masses. Thanks to the women of the Guild of St. Mary for offering this opportunity for fellowship at our parish.

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