



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

This coming week there are many opportunities for people of the parish to come together in prayer. Monday, November 1, All Saints' Day, is a holy day of obligation. We will be offering Mass at 7:30am and 7:00pm. Tuesday is the Feast of All Souls, an important day in the life of the Church when we lift up to God all those who have died. Mass will be offered at 7:30am as well as a special Memorial Mass at 7:00pm. At the special Memorial Mass, we will be praying for all those in our parish community that have experienced the loss and death of a loved one this past year. May the celebration help strengthen those who are grieving the death of a family member. May we as a community be a witness and a model to all who "grieve in hope" in the promises of everlasting life through our Lord Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

There is a need for vocations to serve God and God's people. The Archdiocese is very fortunate to have a major seminary where men from around the world are able to come and be formed and educated to serve the Church as priests. Men come from around the world to study, and upon completion of their studies they return to their local dioceses to serve as priests.

There is a decline in those discerning vocations to religious life or priesthood. There is a decline in the enrollment at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary. The current academic year began at Mundelein seminary with 118 men in priestly formation. There are 24 men at Mundelein studying to serve the local Church in Lake and Cook County, in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Fr. Radley and my alma mater, the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. There are many events that the seminary has in place to recognize this momentous occasion and to continue to invite people from across the Archdiocese and world to prayerfully, spiritually, and financially support Mundelein Seminary. Learn more about the rich history of the Seminary at 100.usml.edu/timeline/.

The Seminary is encouraging a Holy Hour for Vocations. St. Mary's is joining Mundelein Seminary's centennial celebration by holding a Holy Hour for priests on Wednesday, November 3 at 5:00pm. As we pray for vocations at St. Mary's on the first Wednesday of November, the monstrance we will be using for adoration and prayer is the monstrance that was used at the 28th International Eucharistic Congress that was held at Mundelein in 1926. You are invited to mark your calendars and come to join in the Holy Hour for Priests on November 3. This Holy Hour will be held during the regular scheduled time that we offer adoration at the Church of St. Mary, Wednesday, November 3 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm.



The Archdiocese of Chicago has invited parishioners in every parish in Cook and Lake County to reflect on their life of faith, their relationship with Jesus and not only ponder but act on the way all of us are called to be missionary disciples. Since September of 2015, led by prayer and the Holy Spirit, parishioners and parish leadership across the Archdiocese have been engaged in conversation, prayer, and planning. The following prayer has been shared multiple times with you. I offer it again in this article as a reminder and an invitation to spiritually join together with parishes that are actively engaged in the "Decisions and Discernmen" aspects of the Renew My Church initiative.

A PRAYER FOR "RENEW MY CHURCH"

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today,
as you spoke to holy men and women
who have gone before us.
In every age and in our own time,
you call to us and say: Renew My Church.
Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us,
and so enable us
to hear you clearly
to listen to each other attentively
to imagine our future boldly
to discern your direction wisely
to persevere in your holy will courageously
to stay together in charity
to surrender our own plans readily
to embrace the greater good
to hand on your gifts to future generations.
May we remain in the holy company of
the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles and all the saints.
May their example and presence
inspire us with patient confidence
in the work of your grace.
We ask this of you who live and reign
with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,
forever and ever. Amen

Thank you to everyone who supported the Aid for Women Baby Bottle Project. Your donations help Aid for Women make great differences in the lives of women and children. Find more about the ministry of Aid for Women at www.aidforwomen.org.

Next weekend we will fall back an hour. Make sure you remind yourself of this time change next Saturday night so all can arrive on time to share in the Eucharist on Sunday, November 7.

May God bless us with compassionate hearts, respecting all life.

Fr. Mike Vacun