

JANUARY 28, 2018
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR
NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

This week, beginning Sunday, January 28 is National Catholic Schools Week. It is a time to celebrate the great gift that Catholic schools are. Here in the Diocese of Covington, we have a particularly rich history of Catholic education that we need to acknowledge and celebrate.

A few years ago Bishop Foys announced that he had learned something very important while he was at a National Bishops Conference. He had been informed that the Catholic diocese of the United States, which had the highest percentage of its Catholic youth attending Catholic school, was the Diocese of Covington. That is remarkable and is testimony to the dedication to Catholic schools by generations of the Catholic faithful, of religious sisters and brothers (Newport Catholic and Covington Catholic were primarily staffed and run by the Christian Brothers and the Marianist Brothers, respectively), bishops and priests and lay teachers and staff.

I did not attend Catholic school as I was growing up. My dad was a full time farmer in May's Lick, Kentucky, and my mom was a full-time mother and housewife, raising 10 kids. We lived 10 miles outside of Maysville, so attending Saint Patrick School was not an option for us. We went to May's Lick Elementary (no longer in existence) and Mason County High School. The first time that I attended a Catholic school was when I entered seminary. So I recognize that one can receive an excellent education in a public school and can receive a wonderful Catholic upbringing and education through a good Catholic family and a CCD program.

Having said that, I have been heavily involved in Catholic schools throughout my priesthood. Every parish I have ever served in, until now, has had its own Catholic grade school. I have also taught in and served as a chaplain for Bishop Brossart High School, Saint Henry District High School, Newport Central Catholic High School, and Saint Patrick High School. I am presently the pastor administrator of Newport Central Catholic and am involved in giving the senior retreats to Holy Cross High School. My involvement in Catholic schools has been a great blessing to me and has allowed me to see the great blessing they are to our Catholic community and to our local community at large.

Catholic schools are the most effective means of handing on the Catholic faith to young people that the Church has developed. As Bishop Foys is often quoted as saying, at his inaugural Mass when he was named Bishop of the Diocese of Covington, "There are

alternatives to Catholic schools, but there are no substitutes."

During this week, let us pray for the Catholic grade schools and high schools that are part of the Diocese of Covington, especially our own school, Prince of Peace. May God bless the children, the teachers and staff, the parents, and all of the many benefactors of our Catholic schools.

"BE NOT AFRAID"--THE HEALING POWER OF FAITH

In this second week of my series, "Come to Jesus the Healer," we will look at one of the most important healings that we human beings need—healing from fear. The most repeated words in the entire Bible are "Be not afraid," or some variation on them. Fear is one of the most disabling and destructive emotions that we face. And what is fear, except failure to trust in God.

We tend to think that the answer to fear is for us to gain more control, over events, over other people, over sickness, financial insecurity, and the future. This is pure delusion. Saint Paul writes in the fourth chapter of his Epistle to the Philippians about the peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding. This is not a peace born out of control (we understand that peace), but is a peace which we know even though we may have little or no control over what is going on. It is a peace which comes from faith in the love and the providence of God.

How do we develop this kind of faith? How do we trust God when we know that his will and ours might not be the same?

Join us at 11 am and 6:30 pm, on Thursday.

FATHER RICHARD MACALEAR

I have known Father Richard MacAlear, OMI, for several years. We participated together in a Healing Conference at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center about six or seven years ago, and he has done healing services at both Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Burlington and Saint Patrick Church in Maysville, while I was pastor there. He has been in a number of other parishes in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati, as well. Father Mac has an internationally known healing ministry.

Father MacAlear will be at Mother of God Church on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 pm. We will have a healing service at which Father will speak, and then he will pray over everyone who wishes for him to do so. This is part of the "Come to Jesus the Healer" series that I am doing, but it will be the one session which we will do only in the evening.

I hope that many of you will join us and will invite friends and neighbors to attend with you.

Father Mac and I will be leading a pilgrimage to Italy from May 7 to 18. There are brochures at the exits of the Church.

Contributions were made in honor of the following living and deceased persons for flowers to enhance the celebration of the Christmas Season liturgies here at Mother God Church. Thank you!

Bob Ryan
Janet Landers
Mr. and Mrs John Nieder
Nancy Vermillion
Lil and Esther Schuerman
Rose and Eleanor Neltner
Dr. Bud Mueller
Bernard and Marianne Ralenkotter
Don and Sally Glockner
Eva Ellwein
Chuck Legner
Those Who Have Fallen
Ed Hunkemoeller
Mary E. and Maurice Manning
Jim and Helen Crusham
Brady Scanlon
Wanda B. Scanlon
Ferd and Angela Trenkamp
Heidrich, Von Handorf and
Dreiling Families
Margaret Flege
Bill Magner
Bo Strategier
Father Hartman
John and May Kennedy
The Arrowood Family
Mr. and Mrs. William Sauter
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Lonneman
Abbey and Toby
Edgar and Rosemary Sketch
The Quinn, Rieselma and
Dewes Families
Knights of St. John Commandery #94
Ed and Mary Clare Duhme
Anonymous
Pat Sketch
Mildred Ball
Sketch – Simpson Families
Hannah Donoghue
Bob Finnell
Anne Marie Mielech
Larry Selka
Helen Canfield
Frank Canfield
Pat Ryan
John Paul Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Manion
Devin McGovern
Julia Reisner and Ted Reisner
Hermes and Hohnhorst Families
Dick and Sue Heimbrock
Walter and Margaret Schaefer
Bohmer and Ryan Families
Sister Mary Gertrude, O.P.
Father John Michniuk

Sister Mary Yvonne, O.P.
Sister Mary Ann, O.P.
Dickman and Seissiger Families
Jim Dunn
Rich and June Koehler
Gene and Faye Hampton
Andrew and Mildred Lonneman
Ann Brandner
Debbie Schulenberg Day
Chris Tibbs
Susan Willett Neyer
Kindel, Compton and Courtney Families
Viola and Frank Hassan
Mary Ellen and William Detzel
Terry Colcord
Betty Timon
Edwards Family
Rev. William Mertes
Rev. Raymond Holtz
Patti Hoodin
Barbara Schulte
Anne Marie Mielech
Larry Selka
Marion & James D'Ambrosio
Bill Magner
Nan Boyle, Orland Boyle
William Strategier
Art & Joan Arnold
Carl Nunner, Mary Lou Nunner
Tom Kuntz
Nancy Romer
Jordan Logan
Vince Angel
Lou Wartman
Dinny and Dolores Kearas
Betti, Don and Peggy Kohorst
Madelyn Lehr
Rita and Louis Cannon
Jim and Theresa Dressman
Schambach/Horton Families
Father Ray Hartman
Maury Price
Leo and Helen Sternberg
Miller and Cahill Families
Jeff Bowling
Theresa Hicks
Albertha Grimm
Wm. Pelgen
Peter and Isabella Rizzardi
Evelyn Hogan
Don Rolfsen
Pete and Dorothy Nienaber
Wm Strategier
Margaret Ann Lux
Fausz, Huber and Lombards Families
Stella Brincko
Rita McGovern
Michaela Bishop
Julia Rice
The Stevie Family

**Saint Vincent de Paul
Mother of God Conference
2016-17 Annual Report**

During the 12-month period from October 2016 to September 2017, the parishioners who are members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Mother of God Conference performed 214 home visits where we assisted 502 individuals. During this time, through your generous financial support, we expended \$15,400, with \$13,500 of this amount used to provide emergency food vouchers and \$1,900 expended on rent, utilities and other expenses typically related to the residents who were seeking assistance with transportation or clothing needed for new employment opportunities.

We visit the households seeking assistance in their homes. This promotes a sense of dignity and allows us to truly enter into the lives of those living within Mother of God's Parish boundaries. During the visits we listen, comfort, provide needed assistance and we pray. Households that we typically visit include adults who are now raising a sibling's children as the parents are incarcerated or in drug rehab. The pay checks that used to cover normal expenses are now called to provide school clothes and supplies, extra mouths to feed and medical attention. We also visit with the elderly whose Social Security checks were covering all their expenses until they were diagnosed as a Type II diabetic and now have additional unplanned for prescriptions.

Through your generous financial support and by donating clothing and other household items to St. Vincent de Paul, we are able to assist these families with food, clothing, household items, rent, utilities and other needs specific to a particular household. Again, thank you for your continued prayers and support. If you feel the call, please join us in the St. Al's Center on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.

Process

If someone you know is in need of assistance or you are approached before or after services at Mother of God, all you need to do is to refer them to the St. Vincent de Paul **[859-341-3219](tel:859-341-3219)**. The Assistance Office is open from 10 am – 2 pm, Monday through Friday. Calling this number starts the process where the family is referred to their local St. Vincent de Paul Conference via a software program that allows us to track and address longer term needs through our various partner agencies, such as Catholic Social Services and the Parish Kitchen.

Another excellent resource is to have them call 211. This is an information and referral "hot line" that is provided through the United Way and the Red Cross. The 211 system maintains an up-to-date resource of all the agencies and churches that provide a particular service in a given area. They cover all of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

Clip and save in your wallet/pocket to inform folks who approach you at church or on your walks.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society [859-341-3219](tel:859-341-3219). The Assistance Office is open from 10 am – 2 pm, Monday through Friday.

Daily meals at the Parish Kitchen Corner of Dixie and Russell St. 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

(Enter through cyclone fence facing Russell Street.)

Cold Shelter: Doors open at 6 pm and close at 9 am. [634 Scott Street, Covington KY 41011](tel:634-333-3333)

(For questions, call [859-291-4555](tel:859-291-4555))

Dial 211 for any other resource information.