

Dear Parish Family-

Bishop David O'Connell, C.M. has received numerous requests for him to issue a statement regarding the upcoming elections. He has asked that we direct people who have questions to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website where the resource "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" serves as the Bishops' statements regarding elections. <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>

The New Jersey Catholic Conference also has resources which can be accessed here; <https://njcatholic.org/faithful-citizenship>

These are helpful and fruitful resources to help Catholics form their conscience in making a decision regarding an election.

On Wednesday August 2 myself, Fr. P.J., Fr. Jim and Fr. Chang met with the Faculty and staff of Mother Seton Academy from 10-noon and then celebrated Mass together to kick off the new Academic Year. There was much excitement, laughter, enthusiasm and energy among our teachers and staff. Everyone was pretty excited for the new year and we are well prepared. The Academy has been a veritable bee hive of activity for the last two weeks. A New Gym floor had the finishing touches applied. New air-conditioning was installed in the gym as well. Furniture and equipment was transferred from St. Aloysius to MSA this past week needed for the new social distancing. Classrooms were sanitized and deep cleaned by our new cleaning company. Landscaping, bush and tree trimming and mulch were all completed by the new landscaping company. A day porter began work the first week of August and we welcomed a new Administrative Assistant in the School Office Mrs. Stephanie Guida. Our new and improved Website went live on Friday, please feel free to check it out at [www.msa.edu.org](http://www.msa.edu.org). These are but a few of the improvements made to our Academy. The partnership originally envisioned when the merger officially happened a year ago has come to fruition with a new administrative team that are working together and in a collaborative manner with the Academy School Board. Great things are happening! Registration is open.

This Monday we commemorate Labor Day, honoring the American Worker, the back bone of our great Nation. The Catholic Church has a rich history of Social Teaching much of it touching on the dignity of work, all of the Popes from Leo XIII to Francis have written on the dignity of work and importance of Labor.

Finally, this past week I took part in a terrific Webinar hosted by Georgetown University on the "Pope Francis on the Reform of the Church" featuring some of the Popes' closest collaborators. They really brought to light that Pope Francis is not so much looking for Reform as Conversion of Heart. Georgetown has now released the conference on their website for anyone to view. I highly recommend this conference it will be a worthwhile 90 minutes of your time. Each presenter gives a jewel of insight into Pope Francis and his reforms. <https://global.georgetown.edu/events/pope-francis-and-the-reform-of-the-church>

Peace and Good – Fr. Bambrick