

Dear Parish Family-

It is good to be getting back to a normal parish again after a long 18 months of lock downs and restrictions. It is good to see so many familiar faces and be able to talk without masks and distancing. While a few small precautions remain in place they are not limiting or intrusive. We have also begun having parish meetings in person with the only restrictions being no food or beverages until further notice. We are daily reminded we are still in the midst of a deadly pandemic the infection rates in our area continue to decline. Vaccinations are working to bring us to herd immunity, if you have not been vaccinated I urge you to do so as soon as possible. Vaccines save lives; there is no doubt of this scientific fact.

Congratulations to our Parish Catechetical Leader (formerly known as a Director of Religious Education) Jen Petrillo on successful completion and award of Certificate in Catechetical Leadership from the Diocese of Trenton. Jen already has an Masters degree in Religious Education from Seton Hall University. The ceremony took place Thursday June 10 at St. Mary Church in Bordentown in the presence of Bishop David O'Connell, Certificates were presented by the Diocesan Chancellor Mrs. Terry Ginther. Along with Jen two other parishioners also completed the Course and received their certificates; Mira Welnowska and Stacey Schear, congratulations to them for the big commitment they made to Catechesis. Our parish was the only parish to have multiple graduates from this new program.

On Wednesday of last week the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's began their bi-annual meeting. This year the meeting was held via Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic and limits on travel. Their next meeting is in November and will be live in person meeting. In the run up to the meeting one of the many items on their agenda was a study and preparation for a document on Eucharistic Coherence. Unfortunately the media characterized this document on the important and sacred subject of Eucharist as a "no to communion for abortion supporting politicians". This is very far from the truth. You also probably read that one 68 Bishops, later 67 and still later 65 of the more than 400 US Bishops signed a letter addressed to the USCCB President Archbishop Gomez asking the document not be voted on and withdrawn until the Bishops meet in person in November. The Media characterized these bishops as somehow being in support of errant Catholic Politicians receiving communion and even that these bishops may secretly support abortion rights. This was a gross fabrication. Among the original 68 signers was our Bishop. He has asked priests to convey his reasons for joining on as a signer. He said he 100% support and endorses a teaching document on the Most Holy Eucharist and believes it should be developed and promulgated by the Bishops. He opposes that document being debated via Zoom in what he considers to be a rush. He said the most sacred sacrament of our Church deserves a carefully, precise, crystal clear teaching and not one pushed through over Zoom. During a Zoom session some 400+ bishops cannot have a coherent theological full throated discussion. He also shared with us the already packed agenda for the 3 days noting with so much to cover this document would receive scant attention and it needs full attention and therefore would be better suited to the November meeting. These were the reasons he signed the letter. He has been criticized and vilified for signing on but he believes he did so for the good of the Sacrament and in favor of a strong and clear document better suited to in person discussion and vote.

Happy Fathers Day to all the Dads, granddads and great granddads!!!!

Peace and Good - Fr. Bambrick