

In May, I found 7 people (members, friends of the church, friends of friends) who had not yet been baptized. As I started making plans for the baptisms, I came across 3 more people who had never been baptized, so I added them to the "list" too. To encourage our congregation, I announced that we were trying to schedule 10 baptisms. The planning for them did not go smoothly, and it became spiritually obvious that Satan was working hard to discourage the baptisms. Some of the people said they "needed to wait." Some felt that they were "too young." Some parents/grandparents/guardians felt like they were "pushing too hard to make the baptisms happen." It felt a little like trying to herd cats.

Week after week I asked my Christian friends, family, and congregation to pray for all of the families – that God would protect and shield them from spiritual attacks. I remember submitting a prayer request to the St. Louis Seminary asking for their prayer as well. By the end of June, we had only baptized two of those 10 people (one infant and one adult from different families). I knew I would be leaving in Mid-July for vacation, so I tried once again to schedule more baptisms.

By the time I left for vacation, we baptized 6 more people (1 infant and 5 children). Here's an interesting part of the story... I originally tried to schedule 10 baptisms and we baptized 8 people. However, 7 out of those original 10 people have not yet been baptized. I was content to try and arrange baptisms for 10 people, but God ended up giving me 15 people to put on the "list." Out of those 15 people, we have baptized 8. That is such joyful news! Now, it's time to work with the 7 unbaptized people I know about. However, this time I will anticipate God adding more people to the "list."

A few weeks ago, I received a letter from a St. Louis Seminarian. Vicar Matt Gerzevske told me that they had received my prayer request. He said they were praying that Jesus would draw more people to the baptismal font. This is exactly what He did. All glory to God alone!

Pastor Gary M Gerloff