

I have more current news on Fr. Dan Fallon. His esophageal cancer is stage 4, and he just finished his first round of chemotherapy. The cancer has spread and at this point surgery is not possible and the prognosis is that the cancer can only be contained for a time but not eliminated. The doctors have given him an estimated timeline that he said I could share; he may have 18-24 months to live. Fr. Dan said the best thing for him right now was prayer, so please pray for his health and that the Lord bless him with the strength to endure. He will try to still come for a monthly Mass as his energy allows and I'm sure he would love to get a card or kind message from you as well...we are forwarding the notes to him.

Our three seminarians from Mundelein, Matthew Cooke, Myles Swigart, and Grant Huslig all gave moving testimonies of the Lord's call in their lives last weekend. They were very inspiring and a sign of Christ working in the Church. They will be with us on available weekends going forward while they are at Mundelein Seminary, to minister in various ways at the parish including as ministers of care, catechists, altar servers, etc. Please pray for them and give them some feedback as you are able, they would probably love to talk to you!

Speaking of vocations, the Archdiocese has started a new young adult discernment program for men and women called the Samuel Group: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/samuel-group>.

Fr. Tom Byrne and Fr. Tim Monahan are running the program, and spiritual directors include some of the sisters from Our Lady of the Angels as well. Here's a summary of the program:

*“Do you ever wonder how to make a good decision according to God's will? Join us for a discernment group specifically geared toward young adults (ages 19–35). Here you will discuss all kinds of discernment - if you are called to consecrated life, married life, or single life, to a certain career or city, and more. The goal of this group is to help you, and in some cases your significant other, know yourself, Jesus, and your role within the Church.*

*These discernment groups will take place monthly over the course of seven months. At each session, you will listen to talks, have time for small group sharing, and have the opportunity for Mass, Confession, and Adoration. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet individually with a spiritual director while doing this course.”*

This program is a real blessing for any young person, please pass on the information to those that might benefit. Jesus is guiding all of us, this program helps young people listen... **“speak Lord, your servant is listening.”**

The five parishes remaining in our Deanery (F) have merged with the Park Ridge and Niles parishes, uniting Deaneries E and F. I just came from one of those meetings and one of the benefits from the meeting was learning that St. Julianna, Mary Seat of Wisdom, and St. Paul of the Cross all share an RCIA program together and we were invited to join that! We have a couple of candidates already for the program this year and now they can be part of a larger group of people wanting to learn more about Jesus Christ and becoming Catholic.

If you or someone you know from St. Elizabeth is interested in learning more about the Lord and is considering the Catholic faith, we can connect them to an excellent RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program. Email me directly to get more information.

God bless you,  
Fr. Mike

