

Last Sunday was the World Day of Prayer for Vocations when Pope Francis asked us: *“Dear friends...I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God’s call in their lives, to find courage to say ‘yes’ to God.”*

This is the last weekend that two of our Tolton Teaching Parish Program seminarians will be with us: Deacon Matthew Cooke and Deacon Miles Swigart.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Matthew and Miles will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Wichita. Please pray for them as they begin their priestly ministry in their own parishes. Also, I’m sure they would appreciate a word or note of encouragement from you. We are grateful for their work and ministry here over the years. You were probably touched by a word they spoke in a homily or by their kind and Christ-like presence after Mass. They might like to hear that directly from you. Both Deacon Miles and Deacon Matthew have a farewell note in this bulletin with contact information.

We will have at least two Wichita seminarians with us for next year, Grant Huslig and Dominic Jirak. Grant will be ordained a Deacon for Wichita this year and we look forward to hearing his homilies next year! Dominic is just finishing his 1<sup>st</sup> year of Theology this year and served as an RE catechist in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, a work he excelled at and enjoyed. Please pray for them and all young men and women discerning vocations to priesthood and religious life. Giving Jesus everything for the sake of the kingdom brings us joy and blessings now, with eternal life besides.

Talking about and praying for future priests and religious reminds us also of those who have faithfully served us in the past. Fr. Dan Fallon comes to mind who died last month on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Fallon was such a kind and stable voice in the school and RMC parish mergers. I personally appreciated his mentoring way, his calm leadership, and his honesty. Fr. Fallon said what he thought and that is always preferable. We’ve included in this bulletin a nice obituary from those priests that knew him best for you to keep and remember him fondly by. Please pray for Fr. Fallon. Also, the Easter Season of Christ’s resurrection reminds us that *“all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us together in life, do not unravel at death”* (Vigil for the Deceased).

We are grateful to all those who have helped us remain with the Lord on this pilgrim journey. ***I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.***

The Lord’s words to us are both consoling and cautionary. He wants us to remain in Him, to rest, find shelter, encouragement, and ultimately, love. Do we allow ourselves to rest, to find rest in the Lord’s gaze? So often I think we can incorrectly think that Jesus is driving us in a hard way, but that isn’t true. He wants us to bear fruit in Him, not from our own human energy alone. A spiritual hero I am recently learning more about, the Venerable Bruno Lanteri, would encourage his spiritual directees regularly:

*“Above all I recommend with all my heart that you guard against discouragement, disturbance, and sadness. Seek always to keep your poor heart in peace and encourage it and always to serve God with holy joy. Be of good heart because the Lord is with you, and He loves you.”*

The Lord is risen!

Fr. Mike

**“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” - Jn 15:5**