

--- This is the announcement weekend for the Annual Catholic entitled this year “Together we bring hope.” The in-pew commitment weekend when we hear the Cardinal’s homily will be next week. The ACA does a lot of good throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago including assisting in the formation of seminarians and priests, helping Catholic Relief Services, it offers financial assistance to disadvantaged Catholic school families, and gives support for parishes in challenged communities.

Historically, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity and its prior parishes have been generous in this pledge commitment, may that continue again this year. Once our parish goal is met, which is about \$40,000, we receive the money beyond the goal as a rebate for the needs of our campus which are many. Right now, we are getting bids on having more handrails to assist entering and movement around the sanctuary which will be a great help for senior clergy or other ministers. Thank you in advance for your generous support for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

--- Last week’s tribute to JoAnn Keto for her years of service with the Night Players theatre group and St. Joseph Table went very well. It was quite touching to hear the testimonials from young and old about how acting and the stage productions and JoAnn’s guidance helped them feel more like part of the parish with a community around them. Special thanks to Ashley Guinn, Mike Parilla and all volunteers for making the event go off without breaking a leg.

--- Some sad news, we are still finding, though not as regularly, consecrated Hosts on the floor in church. Please keep your eyes open if you see the Lord laying in the hymnal racks or on the floor and let one of the clergy or an usher know right away. While we do have a few people on the lookout the church is large and there are many hiding places. We do have cameras in the church, that is how we were able to locate and help one of the people who was pretending to receive Jesus but then dropping the host on the ground. Without shame we helped that person. Let us pray for faith and true love for the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

--- We have some strong readings this weekend, “***Thus says the Lord: Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord.***” Jesus also gives us the Lukan beatitudes that says we’re happy/blessed when we’re poor, hungry, weeping, and hated on His account. Jesus also warns that we’ll be cursed/woe when we’re rich, filled now, laughing, and spoken well of like the false prophets. A pretty heavy message for us, what to make of it?

One way is context. In the Old Testament, Moses gave similar blessings and curses to the people and Jesus is the new Moses. Except Moses said that if the people followed God’s commandments, they would receive earthly blessings like children, health, crops, peace etc... All those blessings fade away though. Jesus’s promise this week is that if we suffer now for His sake especially; “***Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold your reward will be great in heaven.***”

Earthly blessings can easily lead our hearts to turn away from the Lord and become complacent or see ourselves as self-sufficient. Poor, hungry, and grieving people are very aware of their need and dependence on the Lord for all things. When we’re too comfortable and satisfied we sadly seldom put all our trust in the Lord. If the Lord has removed some of our earthly blessings it has been done out of His love and mercy to preserve our heavenly reward.

God bless,

Fr. Mike

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” - Mt 5:12a