

## **Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: September 17, 2022

## **Week behind**

**Called and Gifted-** In her book, *Fruitful Discipleship*, Sherry Weddell, Executive Director, and co-Founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute, tells the story of a 19th century woman, Margaret Haughery, who, despite never learning to read and write, became a successful businesswoman who gave away vast sums to feed the poor, while founding and supporting homes for orphans and widows. She is known to this day simply as Margaret, the bread saint of New Orleans. Ms. Weddell reflects: The greatest riches of the Church are not found in our gorgeous legacy of art and architecture, our brilliant philosophical and scientific heritage, or even our nearly 700,000 institutions that currently serve the dignity and eternal destiny of human beings on this planet. All of these treasures, wonderful and critical as they are, are fruit borne by human beings who, like the unlikely Margaret Haughery, freely responded to and cooperated with the grace of God in their time and place. Our greatest earthly treasures are our Margarets: the 1.272 billion immortals and potential fruit-bearers who currently bear the surname "Catholic."

The Church invites us to respond to God's call in our time and place. Charisms, spiritual gifts given to us at baptism and confirmation, are clues to the individual, particular call God has for each of us. They empower us to stand in the place of Christ today with our family, our friends, our neighbors, our community. As with Margaret, for whom God had a unique work of love only she could do, no one can take your place in God's purposes for His world. I invite you to prayerfully consider participating in an initiative that will be offered in our parish by teachers from the Catherine of Siena Institute: the *Called & Gifted Discernment Process*. The process begins with a one-day workshop on Saturday October 8, from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the new office second floor. Once completed, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a personal gifts interview as well as join a group of parishioners exploring more deeply what charisms God has given you.

I hope you will seriously consider beginning this process by taking the first step: attending the workshop. Please call or e-mail Deacon Bill, 509-586-3820 or [Deaconwilliammich@stjoseph-kennewicki.org](mailto:Deaconwilliammich@stjoseph-kennewicki.org) for more information and in order to register.

Thank you - I hope to see you at the workshop!

**Religious Education-** This past week the children from our community gathered for their first Religious Education Class this school year. There are many reasons to be grateful for the graces this year. In a special way, I want to thank the school teachers, catechists and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to run the Religious Education program. I also want to thank the parents, who have guided their children to a deeper understanding of our Catholic faith by bringing their children to Mass on Sundays and by bringing them to the Religious Education Classes.

**Deacon Bill Mich-** On Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup> Deacon Bill, celebrated his 26th anniversary as a Deacon. We offered the 6:30am mass for him and the deacons and priests from our parish took him to breakfast. We are grateful for his years of service and dedication to the Saint Joseph Parish and the Diaconate community. If you see him this weekend, please say happy anniversary to him.

**Parish Yard Sale**—On Friday September 16 and Saturday September 17, the Women of Saint Joseph and many volunteers started their annual Yard Sale. I want to thank all the volunteers who help set up and work during the Yard Sale event. This is a great fundraiser to promote community and faith in our parish. Thanks to all the people who have donated items throughout the year.

**Synod process in our diocese in preparation for the Synod on Synodality “Walking Together in Christ”** We had more than 1,000 responses in Spanish and English to the synod process in our diocese in preparation for the Synod on Synodality in Rome in 2023. October 15, during the Church Mission Congress in Yakima, parishioners will have a chance to not only receive the fuller report but will have a chance to get a sense of what was said in Spanish and English, among rural and more urban parishioners, from the north and the south. The Diocesan Pastoral Council will be listening that day and will be making recommendations to the bishop for a diocesan strategic plan that addresses some of the more pressing concerns we heard. There will be music, food, prayer, worship, and fellowship. So please come. Everyone is invited!

### **Week ahead**

**Serra Club-** On Monday September 19 the Serra Club of the Tri cities will organize an event to recognize the priest from our community. The Serrans are Catholic laymen and women who vigorously respond to the call to promote and support vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated life in the Catholic Church. I want to thank Celine Peterson and her husband who organize the traveling vocations crucifix so that parishioners have an opportunity to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**Staff Meeting-** On Thursday September 29 at 11:00am the Saint Joseph Parish and School staff will have a special meeting to talk about the new school year and the present and future events and activities in our parish and school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parish and school staff for all of their hard work and support of the mission at Saint Joseph Parish.