**Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: October 22-23, 2022

**Week Behind**

**A Non-credible Bomb Threat against Children’s Center at Saint Joseph—**OnFriday morning, October 14, the Kennewick Police Department called our Children’s Center Director Rachel Cobb to let her know that there had been a bomb threat against the Center. The threat was called in by the same person who called in a threat 9 years ago. The call was from out of state and the police were able to confirm the caller’s identity and his whereabouts and are working with that state’s law enforcement agencies. No one else was involved in the threat.

The staff displayed great teamwork getting the children in cribs or strollers for transport to the Small Church. The staff then moved the children downstairs where there is a nursery and bathrooms. Communication among Fr. Cesar, the local Kennewick Police Department, Rachel and the rest of the staff, and Deacon Bill was excellent. (Perry Kelly, SJS teachers, and I were in a conference in Yakima.) Fr. Cesar greeted parents at the driveway/parking lot and directed them to the Parish Office parking area. Deacon Bill greeted parents at that parking lot and directed them to the Small Church entrance where the staff gave the children to their parents. I so appreciate this AMAZING teamwork, confidence, and professionalism on the part of the Children’s Center staff.

**Music Director—**I am preparing a job description for a new Music Director for our parish. In the meantime, Jan Hylden and Kori Harrison have taken leadership roles, working with cantors, choir members, and volunteers. I ask for your patience as we conduct the search for a new Music Director.

**Mike Palmieri**— On Sunday, October 23, Mike Palmieri received the rite of admission to candidacy for ordination to the permanent diaconate. This rite is celebrated when the candidate has demonstrated maturity of purpose and the necessary qualifications. The intention to receive orders is expressed publicly by the candidate and the bishop or his delegate accepts the intention publicly. As the pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, I was delegated by Bishop Joseph Tyson to receive Mike as a candidate for ordination. I thank Mike for his dedication and patience during a long process for ordination. Diaconate ordination will be Friday December 16, at 5:30 pm. Please keep Mike and his family in your prayers.

**Prepares Ministry--**In October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life month. We have a very active PREPARES ministry in our parish. It helps so many women and men choose life and continues to help them after their children are born. Dedicated volunteers distribute diapers, food, clothing, and other essentials to those who seek our help. Volunteers also act as mentors to mothers and fathers in need. We are most grateful for the volunteers of this important ministry. Even during the pandemic, PREPARES helped many families in the Tri-Cities.

**Traveling Crucifixes**—The Traveling Crucifixes continue to rotate among parishioners’ households once a week immediately after the 9:00 am and 1:00 pm Masses. Thank you, all parishioners who have prayed for vocations. At home, the crucifixes provide focal points for daily prayer. For one week, the families pray the rosary or other prayers to help young men and woman consider priestly or religious consecration. Vocations begin at home with prayer. I thank the Serra Club of the Tri Cities for promoting this beautiful ministry.

**Father Felipe’s Health Update—** On Wednesday, October 19, I took the Nuclear Medicine Stress Test at Kadlec. I received great news: the doctor told me that my heart looks great and that there is no sign of heart damage. I am feeling much better. I do not have the dizziness or lightheadedness that I had earlier. I still do not know what caused those symptoms. Maybe I got COVID in my trip to Germany, perhaps without symptoms. Common long-term symptoms after people test negative are continuing fatigue or lack of energy, dizziness and lightheaded. The aftermath of an unknown COVID infection could explain some of my symptoms. Or maybe I had an inner ear problem. I do not know the cause, but I do know that I feel much better. Thank you so much for your concern and all your prayers. I believe they really helped me to get better.

**Week Ahead**

**St. Vincent de Paul at Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick**—On Sunday, October 30, we will have our Fifth Sunday collection for Saint Vincent de Paul ministry in our parish. Saint Vincent de Paul Society members rely on your donations to assist those in need with food, clothing, rent and utility bills, household goods, etc. Each request for financial assistance is followed up with a home visit by a team of volunteers. These volunteers are the eyes, ears and hands of Jesus, examples of His love and concern for all our brothers and sisters. On their home visits, the members gather information on the needs of the family, assess the situation, and offer assistance as appropriate. The visits close with invitations to prayer if the people are open to that offer. I thank all the members, especially Tom Curran who has been the ministry coordinator of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society for the last few years. **Please be generous to this year’s last Fifth Sunday collection for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.**

**Annual Catholic Appeal---**On November 5 and 6 all of us will have the opportunity to respond to the annual Diocesan Catholic Appeal. Please prayerfully consider your gift to support and continue God’s work here in Central Washington. I pray that through our generosity, Christ’s presence may be experienced in a special way by all who are touched by the ministries and programs of the Diocese of Yakima.