

FROM YOUR PASTOR

As we continue to focus on understanding our call to be evangelizers of the Gospel, I wanted everyone to be aware of the developments that are taking place in our parish and in the Archdiocese.

First of all, we want to give everyone an opportunity again to become familiar with Archbishop Vigneron's Letter to the Church of Detroit, which sums up the discoveries of the Synod of 2016. We are doing this in a three part series beginning on Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. and continuing through October 24. If you have ever wondered why many people have little connection with the Church anymore, the first session will help you to understand the social, cultural and ecclesial factors that have led to this. The second and third sessions help us to see what our parishes can do to reach out to the unbaptized, to seekers of faith and to those who want to be reconciled to the Church. This letter and the proposals from the Synod have presented a "road map" to guide our parishes in the work of evangelization now and in the future.

Secondly, I am forming a new Parish Leadership team which will look at the way that we prepare parents for the Baptism of their children and how we prepare couples for marriage. Our experience is that 80% of our parents have little connection with the Church community at the time of and subsequent to the occasion of Baptism. They make a promise to raise their children in the practice of the faith during the Baptism ceremony. We need to help parents understand what they are committing themselves to as they promise this. While our present preparation is fine, we need to think about improving this preparation. With regard to Marriage Preparation, our process here and in the Archdiocese is very good when it comes to preparing a couple for their lives together, but it remains weak in helping them to understand what it means to live the Sacrament. How does a Christian couple follow Christ in marriage? How do they connect with the Church? How does the Eucharist strengthen them in marriage? What do we need to do in our parish to support couples who are preparing for marriage? In addition to reviewing, Baptism Preparation and Marriage Preparation, our Parish Leadership Team will also be considering what we need to do as a parish to continue the work of Evangelization.

In my article next week, I want to introduce the plans in the Archdiocese for becoming a more mission oriented parish instead of a parish that is insular and maintenance oriented.

We received a note from the Diocese of Puebla to publish the marriage bans of a couple getting married there. Christopher Edward Van Meter, who has been a parishioner here in the recent past, is marrying Daniela Schulz Guerrero. If you know of any reason why Christopher would not be free to marry, please contact me.

Fr. John