

PARISH NEWS

p. 3

A Word from Father George

Pastoral Musings

There are some times that I hit a block and can't imagine what I could possibly write about. Part of the problem is that this column is written on Tuesday – and come Sunday anything here might be old news - for example, the papal conclave.

I just finished an on-camera interview with Channel 8 news. Such interviews are not one of my favorite things. I don't feel comfortable in front of the camera and would prefer to ponder questions for a bit rather than responding off-the-cuff. Fr. Sean is gifted in that way and I think would make a better "front man." Fr. Zack has a great smile that just makes you want to go up and meet him.

During the interview, one of the questions was who did I think would be the next pope. Heck, by the time you read this, I hope we have one. For now, I have no idea. I think I would like Cardinal O'Malley, OFM. Cap. from Boston – not that I have a sense of him as a person, or how he might be as pope, but because he is someone who is Franciscan. Even as a cardinal he continues to wear his Franciscan habit. I think I would like the contrasting image of Pope "Sean" in his simple friar habit with sandals against the backdrop of all the splendor of St. Peter and the Vatican. For me it is an image of the diversity of Catholicism: the traditions steeped in history, shaped in the grandeur of Rome, yet often lived out in the simplicity of we simple Catholics living a life of quiet faith in the context of our daily lives.

But we'll see. Right now it is Tuesday at 3:30 pm and the first vote is completed – and the black smoke has issued forth indicating an inconclusive vote.

The other thing I have been pondering today is the information over in the next column: the initial report of our APA results. I am so grateful for the response from almost 500 families and households that pledged, volunteered, and/or committed to pray for the success of the annual appeal. When I look at that list of names, it is the families and households that we have come to depend on for ministry, volunteering, and all the activities known and out of the way that make Sacred Heart such a great parish.

But I also wonder about the other 75% of the registered families and households. While I would love for them to also pledge their time, talent, or treasures, I mostly wonder how can we engage them in the life of the parish. Some people might think the goal of 100% participation is unrealistic, but I think it is (at least in part) a measure of the degree to which we as a church/parish have made the Faith a priority in daily life. It was well said by Jim Rossman, our Chair of the Stewardship Committee – we are people who are comfortable giving to a need but we need to be people who have an interior need to give. Something to think about.

Sacred Heart Church

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2013 Annual Pastoral Appeal Update

Many have asked about how our parish did in our recent "one and done" weekend at the end of February. Although we are not "done," we are very encouraged with our results so far and know that a number of families/households have committed to pledge and will do so in the weeks to come.

We thought that we would show you our progress in the light of last year's campaign and effort. The results shown below are both from the second week of March in their respective years.

	2012 APA	2013 APA
Parish Goal	\$214,819	\$236,167
Pledges to Date	\$46,729	\$144,272
% of Goal	21.7%	61.1%
Registered Households	2,509	2,713
Active Households (estimated)	1,250	1,400
Pledges	158	357
% Registered Participation	6.3%	13.1 %
% Active Participation	12.6%	25.5%
Avg. Pledge	\$295	\$404
Additional Pledge Commitments	Unknown	113

We are so appreciative of all the support you, the parishioners, have provided to this year's appeal. Clearly we are light years ahead of last year's efforts in every category – and hopeful that we will reach our goal. If you are someone who committed to pledge, we hope that you will complete your giving. Call us if you need assistance: Pam Ferron (229-1595 x206) or Cheryl Cabrera via email ccabrera@sacredheartfla.org or at 229-1595.