

*Dear Parishioners,***Word from Easter Sunday – Are you at the end of your rope yet?**

Easter makes no sense without Good Friday. Resurrection makes no sense without death. Being born again is meaningless if we haven't already died to a former way of life. We cannot understand or experience the power of the Resurrection until we first come in touch with the end of our personal rope. We cannot experience the blessing of faith in God, faith in Jesus, faith in the Resurrection, faith in the Catholicism, until we have come to some sense of the incompleteness of our life without that faith. Have you come to the end of your rope yet? Has the world? Or are we trying to still build a world without reference to God or Jesus?

Baptism is the Sacrament by which we die with Christ, symbolized by the symbolic "drowning" (the meaning of "baptism") so that we sacramentally through outward signs experience the interior renewal of the spirit in Christ. The change is not immediately apparent, apart from being wet and woken up, except by our hidden life with Christ in God which is made manifest by our good works and faith lived in action and prayer. But we cannot appreciate the experience of this new life until we've come to the end of our old life, the end of our rope.

Our New Catholics initiated at the Easter Vigil have all had their own profound experiences of not only of coming to the end of their ropes but also of finding the powerful, gentle and loving presence of Christ in His Body the Church. Our younger neophytes have had INTENSE experiences of the supernatural presence of Christ in the Eucharist – no wonder they call it the Real Presence! We should not be ashamed to ask Jesus to make Himself as real to us as He is to our new Catholics! Jesus is REAL because He IS ALIVE! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

**This week** – I had a last minute invite to meet briefly with several Seventh Day Adventist Pastors and leaders from the local region. ALL of them apologized profusely for any hurt or controversy that has stemmed from the mailing of that book of one of their founders that was re-packaged to make it look like the Vatican is taking over America. ALL of them said they were sorry and they all expressed the great distress that this event has brought upon their local congregations. Let us continue to pray for our Protestant brethren that they themselves can be at peace with each other so that all Christians can come to know the Unity Christ prayed for.

***TRANSFORMER PROJECTS IS DONE! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!***

Nearly four years since the first email contact between Ruth Miller and PSE, the new transformers for St. Mary Parish were finally installed this week. At time of writing, there's been some hiccups with out antiquated wiring that have shut down our phone system and campus temporarily, but we are hopeful that by Divine Mercy Weekend we will all experience again the ongoing miracle of electricity and the blessing of never - ever - having to take responsibility for the power supply to our campus *ever again!*



The total report on the project to the parish will be forthcoming this spring. With this **massive expense (around \$250K) and supremely complex project (4 years of negotiations and planning)** out of the way, our **Master Planning Team** can now begin to focus on the other main projects of our parish campus that will culminate, finally, in the upgrading of our Parish Kitchen to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The next stop will be another complex project, that will also cause significant upheaval to parish activities: **asbestos abatement in the Fr. Auer Center**. Stay tuned for what the rest of 2022 and 2023 will bring! Kyle assures me asbestos abatement will be 10x easier than this Transformer project ever was!

**VERY SPECIAL THANK TO MR. KYLE MARTH!!!** Without your leadership and expertise, this project would never have been completed so well and at such significant cost savings to our parish! GO IRISH!

*- Fr. Straz*

**Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan:** The Archbishop and his Archdiocesan Pastoral Council have promulgated a Pastoral Plan.: <https://archseattle.org/about-the-archdiocese-of-seattle/archbishop-etienne/pastoralplanning/pastoral-plan/>.