

BY THE WAY . . .

- **Necessity is the mother of invention** I have been truly amazed at the ingenuity of the eating establishments of Hawthorne in their attempts to create – sometimes seemingly out of nothing – attractive outdoor eating possibilities to keep their businesses going. Some, of course, like *Ossy's Café* and *Puzo's* already had outdoor facilities. But some of the others are really striking – from the tented triangle in front of the *Hawthorne Diner*, (which seems almost bigger than the diner itself), to *Villa Rosa's* side alley which is reminiscent of a European setting like Dubrovnik or Santorini, to the *Granada* which has managed to make waterfront dining on the Passaic River feel exotic, to the neighborly tent in front of *Dee's Luncheonette*, to the festive summer block party that takes place every night “in the street” on Diamond Bridge Avenue. And I would not want to shortchange the *Shortways Barn* parking lot. Prizes should be awarded.

The pandemic has forced all of us, not only to be inventive and ingenious, but also to examine priorities and savor and value the truly important. Even as we pray for an end to the pandemic, may we each and all continue to grow in the important lessons we have learned as a result of it.

- **Still another Covid 19 adjustment . . .** Each year in August all the parishes of the Paterson Diocese (and many other dioceses as well) participate in the **Missions Coop Appeal**. By this arrangement, each parish receives a missionary priest, brother or sister each summer. The missionaries speak at all the Masses and ask the generosity of the people in a special collection for the work of their particular mission. The Coop Appeal has a two-fold purpose: first to educate Catholics about the missionary reality in different parts of the world (we are, after all, Catholics), and secondly, to allow us to assist these various works.

Our diocesan Mission Office gets many appeals from throughout the world to be included on “the list” for our diocese. Each year, our Mission Director, Father Stanley Barron, chooses about fifty mission dioceses, religious orders, schools, orphanages, etc. for this year's appeal. Each of them is assigned two parishes of the diocese, traditionally one larger and one smaller parish, in which to make the appeal. The appeal is usually made in August both because many of the “appealers” might be teachers who are off duty in the summer, and also, if the appealer is a priest, he might be able to provide some vacation coverage for the priests in the parish he has been assigned.

This year Saint Anthony's has been assigned the Diocese of Satna, India for the Mission Appeal. The diocese, in the north central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, is on the front line of mission work. It has about 3,000 Catholics in a population of 11,000,000. But despite its small size the diocese has an outsized presence in works of education and charity.

Because of Covid 19, however, no one can come from India to make the appeal. It is not even easy for someone in the United States to come to New Jersey to make the appeal. So we have been asked to make the appeal ourselves on behalf of our mission friends. So, I am practicing my act as one of the sixty priests of the Satna Diocese. Please be nice and welcome me when I arrive in your (our) parish!

- Please remember in your prayers one of our diocesan priests, **Father Hugh Murphy**, the Pastor Emeritus of Our Lady of the Lake in Mount Arlington who died on July 15 at the age of 78. Father Murphy was a long-time faculty member, and then principal at Paterson Catholic High School.

- Several times recently I have extolled your continuing generosity, even in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. But this week I received proof. I received a letter from Monsignor James Mahoney, the Vicar General, thanking Saint Anthony's parishioners for their generosity in the **2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal**. Our parish goal was \$41,940. We raised \$65,767.99 or 56% over our goal. Since half of whatever we raise over the goal is returned to the parish, I was happy to receive two checks totaling \$11,914. Thank you.

- **Prayer for the Next Time I Meet Christ**

*I see them, Lord, every morning,
Standing on the same street corner.
They hold their tattered signs –
“will work for food” –
with every bit of dignity they have.
As I drive by, they raise their hand
in blessing.
I walk by them on my lunch break,
leaning up against a wall,
their few possessions tucked close by.
A dirty hand reaches out
in a sign of peace.
“Spare some change?” they ask,
as I avoid eye contact.
“God bless you” is their answer
to my silence.*

*Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty,
a stranger and alone?
When did we see you at all?*

*Forgive me, God, for what I have done
and for what I have failed to do.
And I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters
whom I have passed by,
to pray for me,
that next time,
I will stop to meet Christ.*

God bless you all,

Father Ray