

BY THE WAY . . .

- Monday, September 14, the Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross will mark the first of the series of **Monthly Eucharistic Holy Hours** for the 2020-2021 season at Saint Anthony's. These monthly holy hours are an opportunity to spend some quiet time in reflective prayer before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. This Friday's Holy Hour will be a time of prayer for Saint Anthony's School which begins its school year this week as well. Friday's Holy Hour will be both live (in the church) and live streamed at 7:30 P.M.

The next Holy Hour will be on Tuesday, October 6, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

- This past week we held a "zoom" meeting of the **Parish Finance Council**. As you might imagine, keeping on top of finances during a COVID Epidemic is a challenging task. I am very grateful to Cathy Clyne, Donna Mallory, and the members of the Finance Council for all their hard work keeping on top of the very fluid "ins and outs" of these last six months. Even more I am grateful to all the parishioners, the members of the 500 Club, and all those who have opted to take advantage of our on-line giving option over this past half-year. The bottom line is that we really, really miss The Feast (in more ways than one), but due to all our generous parishioners, we are not doing too bad. In the words of one of the Finance Council members, "I cannot wait to stand in my booth at The Feast next summer."

- I remind everyone that each August we, along with all the other parishes of the diocese, participate in the **Mission Cooperative Plan**. Usually this means a missionary coming to Saint Anthony's and speaking at all the Masses acquainting us with the work of their missionary endeavor, and giving us the opportunity to help support them by our prayers and donations. This year with the pandemic, our assigned missionary from the Diocese of Satna in northern India is not able to physically journey to Hawthorne. In your envelope packet this month is a yellow envelope marked for the Mission Cooperative Plan. If you are able, please make a contribution in any collection by means of this envelope, so that we can lend a hand to those who "are very far from us physically, and yet closely united in one Catholic faith."

- Saint Anthony's School** is all set to begin its 109th academic year this week. I am grateful to so many people, starting with Sister Colleen, F.M.A. and her staff, who have been working so hard over the Spring and Summer to make all the physical, technological, logistical and emotional adjustments that are necessary to provide education to the young during this time of pandemic.

To give you an idea, I began teaching my Church History class at the seminary at Seton Hall this week. The classroom I use has been designated capable of holding only twelve "properly distanced" seats. There are sixteen students in my class. This means that each week, four of the students, on a rotating basis, will have to attend the class "remotely." And I, technologically challenged though I am, will have to plug in the camera in the classroom so that they can attend! If I have difficulty, which I will, the university has teams of "roaming tech geeks" in every educational building to help professors "figure it out."

That gives you some idea of what every educational institution from pre-school through graduate school is facing this Fall. Saint Anthony's has done a remarkable job in getting ready.

Please say a prayer that all these plans, so carefully and thoughtfully made, will work for the benefit of our students and teachers.

- Last Saturday was the 99th anniversary of the death of **Saint Anthony's namesake**, Monsignor Anthony Stein. In 1900 at the age of 32, Stein became the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Paterson. During his pastorate parishioners from Hawthorne and Fair Lawn approached him about holding religious education classes in their neighborhood so that the children would not have to walk all the way down to the church on River Street. In 1908 classes were held over Vickary's grocery store on Lincoln Avenue, and the following years plans were laid for a church which was named in honor of the pastor. In 1915 Stein moved to Saint Joseph's, Paterson where as pastor (1915-1921) he played a prominent role in civic life and was one of the mediators in the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913. Stein also played a role in the foundation of Blessed Sacrament, Saint Hyacinth, and Saint Therese churches in Paterson as well as Saint Paul, Prospect Park. He died, all too young, in August 1921 at the age of 53.

- As I write this article, I received word of the death of one of our long time faithful parishioners, **Gladys Vazquez**. Despite her health issues and infirmities, Gladys was a faithful regular at the 5:30 P.M. Mass on Saturday night right up to the time of the closing of the church in March. Please remember her in your prayers.

- September 1 marks the retirement of our **parish maintenance director, Bill Chaky**. Bill (in many instances joined by his wife, Jackie) has faithfully served Saint Anthony's over the past six years, lending leadership and expertise to many of the "big projects" with the church roof, snow guards, gutters, and the school electrical panel, while at the same time keeping on top of the day-to-day small stuff that is part of the life of any parish and school. Once introduced to it, Bill loved The Feast, and was one of its biggest promoters, bringing friends and associates every year to experience the event. At times it was hard to remember that he is actually a parishioner of Saint Michael's Byzantine Parish in Passaic. I am personally grateful for all his help over these years in matters big and small, and am grateful that, even in his retirement, he will still be around to help out as needed.

- **Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola**

*Direct we beseech you, O Lord,
All our actions by your holy inspiration,
And carry them on by your gracious assistance,
So that every prayer, work and study of ours
May always begin from you,
And by you be happily concluded.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

God bless you all,

Farther Ray