

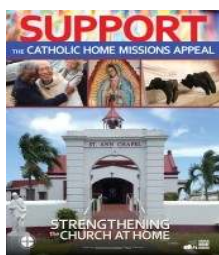
Fr. Simon Sez

Youth Faith Formation (YFF) Big Thank You!: We have finished out our first YFF Parish Missions for this school year! We had a rough start of it, but we had to make some quick decisions and changes in Sacred Heart Parish with a restart, and so, for some consistency between parishes and my messaging, we made some changes in St. Pius X Parish also. Some people said they didn't need any changes, but based on my experience in several parishes, if I make some changes in one parish that parishioners from other linked parishes like, they will complain that their other parish is neglected. This all was a challenge, but overall, our YFF Missions were a great success. We eventually filled all of our catechist and other volunteer positions. Also, we had over 80 percent attendance in both parishes with many compliments. Of course, we have more time for better planning now and based on requests for changes, more time to work on making some adjustments. With all of this, I owe a very big thank you to our staff, our volunteer catechists and their substitutes, YFF coordinators and other volunteers, parents, grandparents, and young disciples for making the adjustments or at least trying to. It really was a great year. We look forward to an even better one next year. Please consider your involvement for next year as an opportunity to serve our Lord by serving His children!

Our YFF Parish Missions continue with Summer YFF (formerly VBS) May 31st - June 3rd. Sacred Heart Parish volunteers are taking the lead while welcoming volunteers and children from St. Pius X Parish. New this year will be Youth Nights on the same dates! See our parish pages in this bulletin for more information.

Diocese of Sioux Falls Priesthood Ordination: This is May 27 at 11:00 a.m. Join us via livestream to watch three men be ordained by Bishop Donald DeGrood. You can find the link to the livestream at www.sfcatholic.org.

JP II Vocations Camp: This is our 6th Annual Vocations Camp for young men 12-16 years old! Young men going into 7th grade or just leaving their sophomore year are welcome. Father Tom Hartman and several seminarians will be leading the camp at Abbey of the Hills July 19-21 in Marvin, SD. Registration is now open on the Vocations page: <https://www.sfcatholic.org/vocations/>.



The Catholic Home Missions Appeal is an annual collection to benefit Catholic dioceses in the United States that cannot afford their annual needs. I have giving envelopes available in our church pews and gathering spaces. Please use them the next couple weeks and place your contribution in the regular Sunday

collections. Thank you.

New for All Ages: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fifth Sunday of Easter



Acts 14:21-27
Psalm 145:8-13
Revelation 21:1-5
John 13:31-35

By God's goodness and compassion, the doors of His kingdom have been opened to all who have faith, Jew or Gentile.

That's the good news Paul and Barnabas proclaim in today's First Reading. With the coming of the Church—the new Jerusalem John sees in today's Second Reading—God is “making all things new.”

In His Church, the “old order” of death is passing away and God for all time is making His dwelling with the human race, so that all peoples “will be His people and God Himself will always be with them.” In this the promises made through His prophets are accomplished (see Ezekiel 37:27; Isaiah 25:8; 35:10).

The Church is “the kingdom for all ages” that we sing of in today's Psalm. That's why we see the Apostles, under the guidance of the Spirit, ordaining “presbyters” or priests (see 1 Timothy 4:14; Titus 1:5).

Anointed priests and bishops will be the Apostles' successors, ensuring that the Church's “dominion endures through all generations” (see Philippians 1:1, note that the New American Bible translates episcopos, the Greek word for bishops, as “overseers”).

Until the end of time, the Church will declare to the world God's mighty deeds, blessing His holy name and giving Him thanks, singing of the glories of His kingdom.

In His Church, we know ourselves as His “faithful ones,” as those Jesus calls “My little children” in today's Gospel. We live by the new law, the “new commandment” that He gave in His final hours.

The love He commands of us is no human love but a supernatural love. We love each other as Jesus loved us in suffering and dying for us. We love in imitation of His love.

This kind of love is only made possible by the Spirit poured into our hearts at Baptism (see Romans 5:5), renewed in the sacrifice His priests offer in every Mass.

By our love we glorify the Father. And by our love all peoples will know that we are His people, that He is our God. St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology (www.stpaulcenter.com)