



**Saturday, June 4**

**following 4:30 Mass until dusk**

# **SRA BLOCK PARTY**

**(ON THE PARKING LOT)**

- Hot dogs/Hamburgers from Men's Club
- Sno-cone truck from Ladies Club
- BYO chairs, beverages, snacks

**HOSTED BY THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

## FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

### *Priest Ordination This Weekend*



Those who regularly attend either 8:00 or 10:00am Masses on Sundays may remember this young man from a few years ago. His name is Donald Morris. This weekend, he will be ordained a priest by Archbishop Rozanski at the New Cathedral.

This weekend caps many years of formation for Donald, including one year at St. Raphael the Archangel. We should be proud of the fact that we helped to form a young man who is now going to serve Our Lord and the Archdiocese as a priest for many years to come.

As we celebrate this great occasion, it is good to also reflect on the reality of the priest shortage that is facing our Archdiocese. In just four years, we will have just enough priests to cover all of the parishes in the Archdiocese. Approximately 15 years from now, we will only have 140 active priests to serve nearly 180 parishes in the Archdiocese.

This should spur us to not only greater prayer for priests and seminarians, but also to look and ask ourselves the question: who might God be calling from our community to be a priest? It is good to help form men for the priesthood by hosting them here throughout the year and including them in our parish life. It is a better thing, though, to send our young men to dedicated discernment and formation in the seminary.

We recently received the results of our Disciple Maker Index. While a full report from our Key Parish Leaders is forthcoming after we analyze the in-depth report, one statistic stuck out to me. 84% of those surveyed have never asked a young man about

a vocation to the priesthood and 77% of those surveyed have never encouraged a young woman or man to consider a vocation to the religious life.

Surely, there are many reasons for this high statistic. There are many more than can be answered in one bulletin column. One thing I can say and would ask you to consider is this: it is one of the highest complements you can pay to a young person to consider such a vocation. To say that I see in you the gifts, talent, and ability to be my spiritual father through the good and the bad of life is a humbling experience for a young person to be sure. But unless we are searching and asking, that young person may never really stop to ask themselves, "could I really do that? Is God asking me to do that?"

As we begin this Summer, take some time and consider the young people in your life? Could you see one of them being a spiritual father or mother? If so, find a time and ask them. It is a humbling compliment you can pay to that young person and their parents just to ask.

### *Anniversary of Ordination*

This year marks my 13th year of ordination to the priesthood. Msgr. Stehly is celebrating 45 years of ordination to the priesthood this year.

Anniversaries are a great time to pause and reflect. As I do each year around this time, I do ask forgiveness from each of you for my failings and shortcomings as a priest, pastor, and leader of our community. This year, I am moved more to ask for your prayers. The next twelve months have no script as to how they will go with the announcements from All Things New for our local community and how the School Improvement Process will lead to greater growth in our school. I ask for your prayers that I be inspired to lead during this unprecedented year that is upcoming and pledge that I will do my best each day for our community.

*I will see you online or in church! - Fr. John  
#SRAstrong*