

Prayers Needed!

Please pray for Deacon Bob and his wife Lisa as they present a retreat at Chillicothe Correctional Center in Chillicothe, Missouri. May their words be anointed as they bring the message of the Gospel to the women residing in this institution.

LADIES CLUB MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15

7:00 *Bonfire on the Blacktop*

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR!



Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert and the recipe written down to share. All recipes will be entered into the Ladies Club Cookbook

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A GOOD CONDITION-USED COSTUME FOR OUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME DRIVE, BRING IN ZIPLOC BAG, LABELED WITH SIZE AND COSTUME NAME.

SAVE THE DATE!

PRESCHOOL PARENT PARTY

SEPTEMBER 30

MORE INFO TO COME VIA EMAIL!

Pasta Dinner

LET US COOK DINNER FOR YOU!

Support the SRA

Class of 2023

October 1, 2022 5:30 p.m.

St. Raphael Cafeteria

\$10 per person

Pasta, salad, garlic bread & dessert

Iced Tea, Lemonade & Water



SAVE THE DATE

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY OCT 22ND

Sign up and more info to come!

Serve The Lord With Gladness: Reprint of September 5, 2022 Column

By Archbishop Rozanski

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We celebrate the feast of St. Peter Claver (1590-1654) this week. When he signed his final vows as a Jesuit, he signed them “Peter Claver, slave of the Ethiopians forever.” (“Ethiopian” was a generic term at the time. It meant “enslaved Africans in the new world.”)

In God’s providence, we’re reading through 1st Corinthians these days, and the passage we just happen to read on St. Peter Claver’s feast day is the one where St. Paul declares: “Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so as to win over as many as possible.” (1 Corinthians 9:19) This is exactly what Peter Claver did: He made himself the servant of the enslaved and ended up baptizing more than 300,000 people in his lifetime!

Peter Claver was deeply disturbed by the treatment and living conditions of the enslaved people from Africa. He saw a need and served it with all his strength. Not perfectly, to be sure! Claver was a man of his time, who also owned slaves. But he was also a man who rose above his time and who helped change the times. And from that, we can draw a lesson for our own lives.

What might it mean for us to follow the example of St. Peter Claver?

As we go through the All Things New process, the simple fact of the matter is that we’re going to concentrate our strength over the next few years. But then the question becomes: How should we use that strength? Let me put it this way: If we, like Peter

Claver, could do one thing, do it well and spend all our strength on it, what should it be?

Cloistered monks and nuns concentrate and then spend their energy on prayer. They’re like the heart of the body. As a cloistered sister once said: “The bars of the cloister aren’t like the bars of a prison that lock people in. They’re like the ribs of the body; they protect the heart, so it can keep doing its work.” Beautiful!

The Missionaries of Charity concentrate and then spend their energy in service to the poorest of the poor. They’re like the hands of the body — giving the work of the body to others.

Peter Claver concentrated and then spent all the energy of his life caring for enslaved people. And it wasn’t just lip service. As he once said, describing his apostolate in a letter to his superiors: “This was how we spoke to them, not with words but with our hands and our actions.”

His life raises a key question for us: As we concentrate the energy of our parishes and schools and agencies over the next few years — the energy of almost 500,000 Catholics! — how do we want to spend that energy?

I ask you to join me in that question of discernment in the coming months, as we launch our parish listening sessions in October.

Summary of Recent Archdiocese Report on Numbers of Catholics, Baptisms, and Weddings

Last week, the Archdiocese put out the Archdiocesan statistics from the annual reports from parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

The number of Catholics registered in parishes continued to see a decline. There are currently 409,000 Catholics registered across the Archdiocese with approximately 75,000 unregistered Catholics, bringing the total Catholics in the Archdiocese to 484,000. Consider that in 2000, we had over 530,000 Catholics and in 2010 just under 520,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese.

Baptisms and Marriages showed an increase. We are approximately back to where we were in these numbers from before the pandemic. However, there has not been a surge of Baptisms or Weddings to “recover” the Baptisms and Weddings lost from the pandemic.

Archbishop Rozanski in the column above asks us to envision using our energy on one thing. The Church’s primary mission is to make disciples in all times and places. How are we to make disciples today in our local community of St. Louis Hills? May we spend time envisioning what that could look like as we continue to prepare for the upcoming parish listening sessions. — Fr. John