

Dear Partnering Parishioners:

THE LORD'S DAY

On May 31, 1998, then Pope John Paul II issued an Apostolic Letter on The Lord's Day. In this letter, he called for Roman Catholics to keep Sunday holy and come to Mass; for secular governments, throughout the world, to enact Sunday Laws forbidding all work on Sunday; and he called for secular governments to encourage observance of these laws.

Many of us remember **the Blue Laws** throughout our country. Many businesses and stores were closed on Sunday because Sunday was a day for family and rest. Times and things have changed in the name of progress. However, I present just one excerpt from John Paul II's letter on The Lord's Day for your consideration.

The spiritual and pastoral riches of Sunday, as it has been handed on to us by tradition, are truly great. When its significance and implications are understood in their entirety, Sunday in a way becomes a synthesis of the Christian life and a condition for living it well. It is clear therefore why the observance of the Lord's Day is so close to the Church's heart, and why in the Church's discipline it remains a real obligation. Yet more than as a precept, the observance should be seen as a need rising from the depths of Christian life.

It is crucially important that all the faithful should be convinced that they cannot live their faith or share fully in the life of the Christian community unless they take part regularly in the Sunday Eucharistic assembly. The Eucharist is the full realization of the worship which humanity owes to God, and it cannot be compared to any other religious experience. A particularly efficacious expression of this is the Sunday gathering of the entire community, obedient to the voice of the Risen Lord who calls the faithful together to give them the light of his word and the nourishment of his Body as the perennial sacramental wellspring of redemption. The grace flowing from this wellspring renews mankind, life and history. (No 81)

Let's encourage each other to full active and conscious participation in Holy Mass on Sundays (or the anticipated Saturday evening Vigil Mass) and receive the graces flowing from this wellspring which will renew all of us! Please consider wearing your Sunday best to praise the Lord!

In addition, may I offer a practical reminder, when coming to Church for Holy Mass, please continue to use your Church Offering Envelopes as your "thank you" back to the Lord for all His blessings, and as a sign that you support all the ministries of our parishes. I ask everyone to use their envelopes in both parishes! The rectory office will gladly assist those who need to register or who need Church Offering Envelopes. Just simply call or email us with the proper contact information so we can make sure you get them. **THANK YOU!**

Attention Potential Godparents and Sponsors

Many of you may be asked to be a Godparent. It is the ancient custom of the Church that a candidate for Baptism and for Confirmation has a sponsor (or godparent) who represents the extended faith community of the Catholic Church into which the candidate is being initiated. The role of sponsor is not merely ceremonial, nor is it simply a social role. To be someone's sponsor is to take an important religious and spiritual place in that person's life and to promise that you will help the candidate grow to

maturity in the Catholic Church. Accepting the invitation to be a sponsor implies your own commitment to practice your faith and to give daily example to adult Catholic living in our modern world.

Often people ask: “What does the Church require of a sponsor?” While there are several specific requirements for serving as a sponsor, the more basic question is not: “Will the Church allow me to be a sponsor?” -- but rather: “Can I honestly allow myself to be a sponsor?” In other words, when you are invited to be a sponsor, you must first ask yourself if your own personal integrity allows you to stand at the altar to make a public profession of faith and to affirm that you practice your faith in your daily life. Are you being true to who you say you are as a believer?

It is true that the role of sponsor does not demand that you be a canonized saint. All of us need to rely upon the mercy of God for our sins and faults. Yet the role of sponsor does call for an individual who practices the sacramental life of the Church and “lives a life in harmony with the faith,” that is, attends Mass regularly and if married, was married in the Catholic Church, or with the approval of the Catholic Church. If you are an actively practicing Catholic at this point in your life, you would make a great sponsor at Baptism or Confirmation!

Many of us know situations in which someone who has stopped participating in Mass and rarely receives the sacraments is asked to be a sponsor at Baptism or Confirmation. If you are in a similar situation now, I invite you to let this invitation be a real opportunity to grow in the Holy Spirit and in your own faith commitment. You could arrange to meet with a priest or deacon, or perhaps with a family member or friend who does practice the faith, to talk about the state of your faith life as an adult. Such a prayerful conversation may be the opportunity to begin a new and more faithful living out of your faith at this point in your life. Perhaps you are really not ready to make this kind of decision. If you cannot bring yourself to a renewed practice of the faith, then by all means be honest enough to politely decline the invitation to be a sponsor at this time. This is what is meant by a call to personal integrity.

If we as a parish staff can assist you in your discernment of your own readiness to accept the responsibilities of sponsorship in the Church, please call us at the parish office. May the Lord guide you in deciding whether you are ready for this awesome responsibility.

St. Charles Borromeo Parish-Update: The two houses, the Kelly House and former Convent have been sold to a family from New Jersey. They made settlement on Tuesday, September 19, 2017. If you see our new neighbors, please welcome them to our neighborhood.

Offering Counters Needed at St. Charles: We are still in need of having more parishioners step up to form a team of counters to count once a month on a Sunday after the 10AM or on Monday. If interested please contact Marty Kelly or Monsignor Majoros at the Rectory (610-623-3800; rectory@scbdh.org)

Blessings,
Monsignor George A. Majoros
Pastor of the Partnering Parishes