Greetings from St. John the Evangelist!

So far in 2018 . . .

It has been a busy six months! A busload of parishioners continued the tradition of participating in the annual March for Life at the State Capitol grounds in Olympia on January 22nd. They joined thousands of others who cherish life at all stages. At the end of the month we bid a fond farewell to Fr. Achilles who returned to his ministry as rector at Sacred Heart Seminary in Uganda.

On February 3rd the parish celebrated a Community Unity Festival, enjoying a delicious authentic Mexican dinner that raised funds to assist victims of the dual 2017 earthquakes in Mexico. That same weekend, Deacon Glenn Harmon and his wife Linda began a parish retreat to help us prepare for the season of Lent—which began when Ash Wednesday landed on Valentine’s Day this year!

The parish rejoiced when over 65 individuals celebrated the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass. The next Sunday, Divine Mercy, Fr. Tom lead over 35 parish pilgrims in the footsteps of St. Paul and St. John during an inspiring 10 day trek to Turkey and Greece.

May was a busy month as always: nearly 140 youth received First Communion over two weekends and on a third weekend, close to 40 more received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Archbishop Peter Sartain. On Memorial Day over 120 people once again gathered at our parish cemetery for Mass; over half then joined the Eucharistic Procession back to the church, recalling the journey of our forebearers from the site of our first St. John church at NE 109th and NE Maitland to our current location at 8701 NE 119th Street. It was a glorious day, filled with sunshine, song and prayer!

These are just a few of the highlights our parish family has observed in this, our 150th anniversary year! To the right are a few more heading our way in 2018.

Faith Formation Wraps Up One Year, Prepares for Another

While the academic year may be wrapped up for 2017/2018, there is no summer break for the Faith Formation programs at St. John the Evangelist!

Our Annual Vacation Bible School is taking place as this newsletter is printed! After a full week of preparing classrooms and Vogel Hall, students, catechists and aides find themselves “Shipwrecked” June 25-29 but “Rescued by Jesus”.

Nearly 40 youth and adult volunteers are anxiously awaiting their trip to Steubenville NW help teens encounter the love of Christ every summer. Their mission is to build the Church by evangelizing, equipping, and empowering God’s children to become radical and joyful disciples, with dynamic speakers who instruct and challenge teens in all facets of their lives. Catholic teens are able to laugh, cry, sing, pray, discern, be encouraged, and be healed. Steubenville Northwest is a weekend for those just coming to know God, and for those yearning for a deeper relationship as a disciple of Christ.

And, all the while, we are accepting registrations for our 2018/2019 classes which begin in September! Thank you to our amazing volunteers—we couldn’t do it without you!
Financial Realities

The Sunday Offertory, aka Ordinary Income, is the “bread and butter” of any Catholic parish. At St. John it accounts for nearly 90% of our total annual revenues! Without the generosity of our parishioners Sunday after Sunday, year in and year out, we would not be able to operate the over 30 ministries (not including Faith Formation!) currently in existence at the parish. Just imagine the impact these various ministries have had in the 150 years of our earthly existence—Eucharist to the Homebound, Bible Study, the Bereavement and Funeral Committees to name just a few.

The generosity of our parish community extends far beyond the church walls. So far in 2018 alone, we have donated $39,000 to Sacred Heart Seminary in Uganda, $10,000 for Earthquake Relief in Mexico, $6200 to Rice Bowl, $5000 to Catholic Relief Services, and $2300 to Catholic Home Missions—$62,500 over and above the Sunday Offertory. Amazing!

Our ministry continues beyond our earthly existence through our Parish Cemetery. Nearly 600 individuals (including 12 known only to our Lord and 93 veterans) rest in this serene place. The diligent stewardship of our Cemetery Committee and Finance Commission helps assure all rest in peace.

In the words of Blessed Oscar Romero, “This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow... We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.”

Did You Know . . .

- The Sunday Mass schedule changes July 1st. Masses will be celebrated at 9am (with American Sign Language interpretation) and 11:30am (Spanish). The Saturday Vigil Mass remains at 5pm.

- Josh Nehnevaj, the seminarian from the Archdiocese of Seattle who worked at the parish in June, will be living and learning in Rome for the next two years as he continues his studies for the priesthood.

- The celebrations and special events for our 150th anniversary continue for nearly the entire year. Our parish picnic returns bigger and better than ever on Saturday, July 7th, noon–4pm. On Sunday, October 14th at 5pm we present “Bible Bingo!” a live stage comedy about the Catholic culture of fundraising and bingo, featuring the character, Mrs. Mary Margaret O’Brien, a former nun who now heads a fictitious archdiocese fundraising department. The culmination of our festivities will be Mass celebrated by Archbishop Peter Sartain at 3pm on Sunday, November 4th, followed by a celebratory dinner at the Heathman Lodge.

- Special commemorative memorabilia available for the 150th anniversary includes the first parish pictorial directory in 10 years, a cookbook, and apparel (polo shirts, twill shirts, and fleece vests) featuring the distinctive St. John logo.

- A complete 2017/2018 annual report will be mailed and emailed to all registered households in early Fall, 2018—watch for it!