



From the Pastor

September 13, 2026

Dearest Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we continue into these early weeks of the school year, I'd like to draw your attention to the things that are happening. There is a lot of discussion among our staff members about how we can draw stationary and student members together. Opportunities for activities that can be opened up to both segments of our community are on the top of our mind.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) will be starting up very soon with two sites – Newman on Sunday evenings and Immaculate Conception on Tuesday evenings. This program will begin the week of September 20. If you know of someone who is curious about the Catholic Church, or someone who has been baptized in the Catholic Church but is in need of completing their initiation (First Communion and/or Confirmation), please have them contact us! Sometimes it happens that a student or other adult is 'alone' in Eau Claire and has no one to walk with them as a "sponsor". If you are willing, this is an outstanding opportunity for supporting our students and others in a more personal way.

We made excellent use of the backyard this past week with bonfires, games, and food; giving our students an opportunity to come together to meet staff and each other. There were a good number of freshman who took part as well as a few non-Catholics. Thank you to all who put these events together and were present to support our students.

Finally, September 15 is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. We will be taking this opportunity to kick-off an effort conceived by Fr. Daniel Sedlacek, the pastor of Chippewa Falls, for a seven-year journey leading to our celebration of the 2,000-year anniversary of our Lord's resurrection. This effort will include singing or reciting the proper Marian Antiphon for the season at the end of Mass, opportunities for recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of the B.V.M., and other programming preparing us for this moment in salvation history. This 'pilgrimage' through time is an important opportunity for focusing us on 'who we are' and 'what we are about – what we were created for'. I hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity.

Remember who (and Whose) you are!

Fr. Michael

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NEWMAN
PRAY | LEARN | COMMUNITY | SERVE | INVITE

On Living the Vocation to the Holiness

Last week I wrote on Pope Leo's review of the four *constitutions* from the Second Vatican Council (1961-1965). He is now making his way through the fourth of those documents: *Gaudium et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church. I also said I would be writing for a while on the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy – *Sacrosanctum Concilium* for the next several weeks. Alas! I need to write about something else this week and so will return to the topic of sacred worship next week.

For the next two weeks we will be hosting this year's **Mission Co-op** in our parishes. This next weekend at Newman and the weekend after at Sacred Heart – St. Patrick's. The annual mission co-op was instituted in the 1960's by our then mission office director, Monsignor Anthony P. Wagener. He recognized at that time that there ought to be a way by which all of the parishes in the diocese might have the opportunity to be further informed about the mission work of the Church throughout the world – including throughout the U.S. This effort continues today and I would say that it was yet another of many great initiatives and ideas that Msgr. Wagener has left us.

The point of the annual mission co-op, which is different from the annual mission appeal which comes later in the year, is to give parishes the opportunity to hear from a wide variety of missionaries about their work. Without the annual mission appeal, some parishes might only hear from one or two of their pastor's favorite mission efforts. Too many parishes might likely not hear from any at all. With the annual mission co-op that problem is solved and we all get to hear from a variety of missions.

Over the years, I have benefited greatly from hearing about the many and varied mission efforts around the world. Even different missionaries from the same part of the world are often engaged in very different ministries, and so there is always something new and interesting to be learned.

There is a collection taken up for the missionary we are hosting. Envelopes are provided and we ask that you make any checks out to the parish and then one check will be issued to the diocesan mission office which will then forward the funds to the mission itself.

Not all of us are called to personally go to the missions, but we are all called, as we see in the epistles of St. Paul, to support the missions. Thank you for your kind support of their work, which is our work of bringing Christ to every people.

Mission Priest



Mission Co-op September 19-20

Please welcome Rev. Thomas Ayepa from the Moroto Diocese in Uganda at next weekend's Masses.