

Mission Perspectives

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us get rid ourselves of every burden of sin that clings to us and persevere in the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes focused on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2a).

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Welcome to August, a month full of different feasts of famous witnesses to the faith – the saints. Among the saints’ feast days we have already celebrated and still have to celebrate this month are those of St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) – the founder of the Redemptorist Order, Church historian St. Eusebius of Vercelli (283-371), St. John Vianney (1786-1859) – the patron saint of parish priests, the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord on the 6th, St. Dominic (1170-1221) – founder of the Dominican Order, St. Lawrence (d.258), St. Clare (1194-1253), St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941), the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 15th, St. Stephen of Hungary (975-1038), St. Jane Frances de Chantal (1562-1641), St. Bernard (1091-1153), St. Pope Pius X (1835-1914), the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary on the 22nd, St. Rose of Lima (1586-1617), the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle on the 24th, St. Louis (1226-1270), St. Monica (322-387) – mother of St. Augustine, St. Augustine (354-430) and the Memorial of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist on the 29th.

These are by no means the only saints’ feast days we celebrate this month, but they are picked out because they represent common names with which most of us are familiar. As you can see, the only thing chronological about them is their order on the calendar of the saints but not when they lived or died. So, since this month we have that cohort of saints to call upon for intercession, let us move forward with hope and confidence.

For the past several months we have been awaiting the arrival of the statue of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton to be erected in the Mother Seton Garden for its completion. As I write to you, the statue is here. Maybe as you read this bulletin, it has already been erected. If not, it will be erected soon so that our prayer garden, which is one of Fr. Pat’s final legacies here, may be completed.

Heartfelt thanks go to all of you who have specifically donated towards this prayer garden in terms of the trees, the gazebo and the benches therein, the statue and all that has gone into the beautification of the entire place. This garden, we hope, will be a good addition to the places we have for prayerful leisure open to all of us around our parish campus. Let us enjoy it when it is completed.

Once again, thank you for participating generously in the two back-to-back special collections we had last month! Last week, what had been collected towards air conditioning was reported. This time, I am glad to report what has so far been collected towards the fund for the retired clergy of our diocese. So far \$2,450 has been collected. Thank you very much for your expression of gratitude for the contribution of those our spiritual fathers and for being there for them in this time of need!

As some of you may already know, our beloved Msgr. Dennis Mahon who has served this parish for over 25 years stepped back at the end of last month. He will be available to help serve our parish occasionally but not on a regular basis! We shall surely miss his spiritual service but let us focus mainly on thanking him for that more than a quarter a century he has put in for the good of our souls. Since here at SEAS we are not so unappreciatively cheap that we just thank our spiritual fathers with “Thank you and have a blessed day”, we shall have a decent, official thanksgiving for Msgr. Mahon on Sunday September 4, 2022 starting with and following the noon Mass over which he himself will preside. Announcements concerning this event will be made beginning with next weekend but even now, you can already participate in two ways: first, by coming up with suggestions on how you think this day should be celebrated and second, by making it known that you will physically participate in the celebration. You can accomplish any of or both those by calling the parish office. We need to know the actual count of those who will be present at the luncheon to enable us to make proper arrangements.

Looking forward to continuing to carry on God’s mission together, let us continue to hope for better things.

Yours in the Master’s service,

Fr. Evarist