

After the Heart of Jesus ...

*"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;
so ask the master of the harvest
to send out laborers for his harvest."*

Jesus words in today's Gospel speak once again of vocation, the call, and the need for laborers for the harvest. "Laborers for the harvest" is the only thing Jesus specifically asked his disciples to pray for. He prayed for them, instructed them how to pray, and encouraged them in prayer -- But the only thing he specifically asked them to pray for was workers for his harvest. This prayer should not just be some generic prayer, but should be focused on the harvest we participate in. It should be a prayer that begs for a generosity of spirit amongst all parishioners to carry out his mission here at St. Walter, but also that God will take from our families that which and those who are needed for his purposes. Too often God hears, "Not me" or "Not now" to the invitation to serve and follow. Let us pray that in our homes God may hear more "Here I am, send me's."



Thank you for the wonderful support given to Bishop Gali Bali and the Diocese of Guntur, India. Last week we collected \$5031 to support the efforts of his diocese to help victims of the tsunami. We also collected over \$2000 to support the charitable causes of Pope Benedict XVI through the Peter's Pence collection. Contributions for both of these causes can still be made by including your gift in a special envelope in the Sunday collection.

We should also be proud and very happy that we have exceeded our goal for the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal. **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** My fellow pastors of large parishes have shared with me the difficulties of raising money for the diocese in parishes our size. Many of their parishes are in the 70% range in reaching their goals. Reaching our goal of over \$117,000 (in pledges) shows how generous you are. We obviously still need those who have made pledges to complete their commitments. And if you have not yet made a gift to the Diocese, I strongly encourage you to give to this important cause. It would be great to see our participation rate at 20 or 25%. Both the diocese and the parish will benefit from any gifts that go over our goal.

This will be a wonderful week for our children in Bible Camp as they enjoy a wild ride through God's Word at Avalanche Ranch. Many adults and young people will be helping as group leaders, song leaders, activity coordinators, snack makers, etc... Next weekend the kids will join us to share a song at the 9:00 and 10:30 AM Masses. Let us all pray for the success of Bible Camp.

Also please pray for the success of Theology on Tap, an opportunity for those in their 20's and 30's to come together for some relaxed conversations about topics of faith and to have some social time. We have a very fine group of speakers lined up to share messages about God in our lives today. A big plus is that child care is provided (Thank you to those who will be watching the kids!) so that moms and dads can enjoy some young adult time again. Singles, of course, are also welcome.

This Sunday after the Noon Mass the new officers for our Knights of Columbus Pope John Council #5732 will be installed. Congratulations to new Grand Knight **Dan MacShane**, Deputy Grand Knight **Frank Montefalco**, Chancellor **Dave LaMontagne** and all the other new officers and directors. I am grateful to **Deacon Mike Kowalchik** for serving as the council's chaplain. **Chester Stabrowski** (of tootsie pop fame) has completed a successful year and is now Past Grand Knight and Council Trustee. The Knights are a wonderful group within our parish. Any practicing Catholic gentleman interested in learning more about the Knights can contact the membership director **Joe Schabelski**.



The transitional meeting of the old and new parish councils will be on Wednesday of this week. The retiring members of the council who have served faithfully for well over ten years each are **Dan LaSota**, **George Kriaris**, **Sue Gaffey**, and **Steve Walsh**. Continuing their service on the council are **Stan Schmidt**, **Jerry Smiley**, **Deacon Mike Kowalchik**, **Katie Van Valkenburg**, and **Frank Cincione**. The newly selected members are **Ray Horn**, **Judy McGuire**, **Jim Paoellella**, and **Michael Thomas**. I count on these parishioners to be additional eyes and ears to get a pulse of our parish life. Please feel free to contact them with regard to your comments and input into our life as a parish. Please pray for the successful work of the parish council in forming the pastoral priorities of St. Walter Church.

Also, the first home Mass this summer is this week. Please see the schedule in this bulletin to find a Mass near you. Father Mario and I are looking forward to the opportunities to meet in the neighborhoods in our parish to lift our voices in prayer at Mass and to talk about life in the parish. Families are invited to both host and attend the Masses together.

May the Lord strengthen us as we answer his call to live,

After the Heart of Jesus!

Father John