



# St. Pius Calling...

May- June 2017

## St. Pius X Church will be celebrating 25 years of prison ministry at the Snyder County Prison

this summer. During this time, prison-ministry volunteers have visited the people at the prison once a week for communion service followed by discussion of the scriptures for that weekend. To accomplish this we took copious notes of Fr. Joe Celia's homilies to share with those who attended. The following will reinforce what we were trying to do.

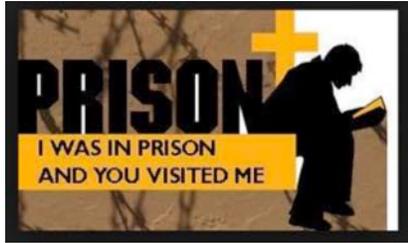
One Saturday night before Mass, I was standing in the hallway of our old church and I heard a voice say "Take notes." Being obedient, I took notes of the homily even though it was not my turn to go to the prison. That evening I had a dream that Bob, who was supposed to go to prison, asked me if I could go in his place. In the morning Bob's wife called to tell me that there was an emergency and Bob could not go to the prison. She apologized, thinking I would not be prepared. —Two things are evident here: the Holy Spirit was confirming our ministry, and He wanted us to be prepared to share the word of God with the people at the prison.

In the beginning, men and women were allowed to attend together and 25 to 30 people would be present. Our team consisted of male and female parishioners. The prison eventually stopped co-ed attendance and men and women began being seen separately. In the past, we also had weekly bible study.

The following is a success story. Karol and I more or less "adopted" a couple who were released from the prison many years ago. In helping them find their way, we became close friends and are the Godparents of their daughter who is now a third-year student at Catholic University of America. Even though they live out of state, we visit each other regularly and will remain close friends for life.

In the past, Fred Grosse and I were involved in Kairos Prison Ministry at Lewisburg and Allenwood federal prisons. It consisted of a four-day weekend at the prison and once-a-month follow up for a year. Currently, Mike Seno and Ray Cerezo are members of a federal sponsored "Prison Visitation Support Program" for people at Allenwood who don't get visitors. Mike and Ray go to Allenwood once a month for meetings with men living at the prison and they tell me they get more than they give.

After a hiatus of 20+ years, we again have a female parishioner, Felicia O'Brien, visiting with females at the Snyder County Prison twice a month for communion service and scripture study. On the other two weeks of the month, Chris Heckman meets with the women. Father Pius is available for confession



## Pious Thoughts

from our Pastor, Fr. Pius

Greetings!

Pious thoughts for May-June. As we celebrate the centenary of Fatima this Month of May, we are called for a deeper devotion to our Lady. June, the month of the Sacred Heart, aid us in our love for the Eucharist. Congratulations to our Ten Angels who participated for the first time at the table of divine love. Twenty-five years of prison ministry calls for celebration. We pray for God's blessing on the disciples of our community who have been the face of our community all these years. Thank you, Mary Ramer, for reminding us the importance of our faith. Keep Smiling! Enjoy your Summer!



and counseling upon request. Current members of the prison ministry team are: Fr. Pius, Joe Barlow, Charles Kerstetter, Chris Heckman, John Yagel, Felicia O'Brien, Mike Seno, Ray Cerezo and myself. *By Joe Scartelli*



On May 7, the students of St. Pius X crowned the Blessed Mother at the front of the Church. As each student brought flowers from their gardens and carried them to Mary's statue a piano instrumental was played, signifying the devotion for the holy crowning. After Mass, the parishioners processed outside in the drizzly rain to Mary's Garden where Mary was crowned a second time. Like the three little cousins in Fatima, Portugal who waited on October 17, 1917 for the apparition of the coming of the Blessed Mother, our own St. Pius X children and parishioners stood in the drizzly rain to honor and crown our beloved Blessed Mother singing 'Hail Holy Queen'.

*By Dolores Cook*

## CROWN AND CROSS KEYS By Joyce Seno



The Crown and Cross Keys are the Coat of Arms of the Holy See i.e. the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Catholic Church in Rome. It appears in many places and is part of the Holy See Flag. It is composed of two main symbols, the cross keys and the “Papal Tiara”. Not to be confused with Toddlers and Tiaras. The crossed keys are a pretty easy symbol to identify; they obviously are the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven given to Saint Peter.

Since the XIV Century, the two crossed keys have been the official insignia of the Holy See. The gold one, alludes to the power in the kingdom of the heavens, the silver one, indicates the spiritual authority of the papacy on earth. The mechanisms are turned up towards the heaven and the grips turned down. This symbolizes the handing of the grip to the Pope or the Vicar of Christ. The red cord that unites the grips alludes to the bond between the two powers.

But what about that Tiara? The regalia of the early papacy included the triregnum, (Tiara) a headgear with three crowns or levels, also called the triple tiara or triple crown. There are several interpretations of the three levels, as “the triple power of the Pope: father of kings, governor of the world and Vicar of Christ,” as symbols of the Trinity or the three estates of the Church: Rome, Christendom, Spiritual Sovereignty, and as the three prerogatives or mandates of the Church: to teach, to govern, to sanctify. Although the Tiara is no longer worn, it’s symbol remains as part of the Holy See.



### Why Catholic?

By Mary Ramer

I am what some people refer to as a cradle Catholic. I was born the younger of two girls to a middle aged, second generation Irish Catholic man who was one generation from being fresh off the boat from the Emerald Isle.

My mother was of German decent and a baptized practicing Christian of a non-Catholic faith.

When my sister and I were born, my mother supported my father in raising their children in the Catholic faith. From my earliest memory we all attended church as a family.

I was educated in a Parochial school and during that time my mother attended RCIA and joined the church. She remained my example of a faithful Catholic after my father’s death when I was sixteen.

As an adult, I made the decision to take the RCIA class myself. I found it very rewarding and learned many things about my faith that I had not understood as a child. I also was inspired by other adults in the class who were studying the Catholic faith and the enthusiasm in which they embraced our belief. Later I witnessed how several of those who converted in adult years became some of the most active members of the parish.

I have experienced miracles in my life and the biggest one was my husband Isaac. Isaac like my mother was a baptized, practicing Christian of a non-Catholic faith. When we met Isaac began to accompany me to Mass and shortly after decided to attend RCIA classes. I sponsored Isaac this time but we both grew as we studied the Roman Catholic

faith. Isaac now a member is my rock and right arm in the love of our faith.

So why are we Catholic. Because we were called at the cradle and as adults. I think of this at Mass when the priests says “From age to age he gathers a people to himself so that a perfect offering can be made”. We are these people, part of the Roman Catholic family. We and our family of Catholic believers. We are Catholic because it is the church established by Jesus Christ. It is steeped in tradition and history. Passed down through generations of those who followed Christ. Our faith has wonderful outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace. We love the structure and formality of the Mass and the sacraments which express the importance of what is taking place allowing you to be a participant and not just a spectator.

Coming to church is like going home. You feel the presence of God as soon as you walk in. The Mass and the readings remove you from all the pull of the world and put everything into perspective. It grounds us in what is really-important to our lives. Salvation. To be with God.

As Catholic we receive God in Holy Communion and carry him in us as we leave to go back out into the world.

A friend told me once. “You have to go where you are fed.” That is why, we are blessed to be Catholic. Our food is the word, body, and blood of Jesus Christ.

