

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Despite the heat and rain, I hope you have been enjoying these summer days and have had the chance for some relaxation. In Wisconsin we only have so many days of long daylight and good weather to be outside so I hope we are enjoying them.

One of the highlights of the summer is our parish festival. This year the festival will take place on July 11, 12, and 13. I wish to thank Dave Lownik and Bobby Coleman for their extraordinary efforts as co-chairs of the festival. I also wish to thank the entire Festival Committee and all those who make our festival possible. It takes many months to put together our festival from securing the entertainment, food vendors, and volunteers. Of course, without volunteers our festival is not possible. If you have not yet signed up for the festival, I encourage you to do so. At the time of my writing this letter there are still many open spots. I thank you in advance for the generosity of your time.

This is also the time of Pastoral Council discernment. In my four years at St. Mary Parish we have always enjoyed a very strong Pastoral Council. I know that can also be said of the time prior to my arrival. I have been so impressed by the dedication of those who have served. There is deep care and love for the parish among those who have discerned and accepted the call to serve on the Pastoral Council. What is important is that it is not just about the meetings. Yes, those are important but our Pastoral Council has been active in offering hospitality on the weekends, being involved in the various ministries of our Commissions, and offering wisdom when decisions need to be made.

I am asking you to please discern if you, or someone you know, would be a good member of the Pastoral Council. When we talk about discipleship and being involved, this one way to do it. Maybe you have discerned before but it was not the right time – and now it is. Perhaps, someone has nominated you before and now you feel the time is right. There could be someone in your heart who you feel would be a good leader in our parish – see if the Holy Spirit is asking you to nominate them.

Please pray for a successful festival and for the discernment of our future leaders. Come Holy Spirit!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor