



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time: OCTOBER 16, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

I recently came across some interesting facts and figures about the importance of lay people in the life of the church.

Between 1965 and 2007 US Catholic population increased 48% and the number of priests available for pastoral ministry declined 8.5 %. Between 2004 and 2020 according Dean Hoge "Priesthood in Year 2020" the estimated number of Catholics per parish will increase from 3086 to 3700.

- In 2007, 1/3 of newly ordained were foreign born
- Between 1985 and 2010 the number of parishes declined from 19,244 to 17,08 but the number of Catholics grew from 53 to 65 million
- Today there are nearly 17,000 deacons in the US and 31,000 Lay Ecclesial Ministers
- 30% of parish priests say they are too busy to adequately meet pastoral needs of the people.

According to a National Opinion Research Center Survey:

- 87% of priests say they are very happy and satisfied with their lives
- 86 % of US Catholics report that their pastors are doing a good job
- 73% of US Catholics are optimistic about the Church's future!

Please pray for all our parishioners, priests and staff living and deceased.

Sincerely,

Father Mike Meany