

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I wish to begin by thanking everyone who has completed the Disciple Maker Index Survey (DMI). We have had a good initial response but I do want to repeat my message from last month on the importance of this survey for our Pastoral Strategic Planning Process. After consultation with both the Pastoral and Finance Councils, St. Mary Parish & School has launched a Strategic Pastoral Planning process. Many of you may be familiar with strategic planning from the business world and understand its importance. While there is certainly a practical and organizational aspect to parish and school life, that work always flows from our primary mission: forming intentional disciples and helping one another grow in holiness so that, one day, we may all become saints in heaven.

With a parish and school of our size, our leadership has discerned that this is the right time to formalize our goals and establish clear ways to measure our progress. This process will help guide our mission and strengthen our community for years to come. We are blessed to be assisted in this effort by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Marquette University, both of whom are helping other parishes and schools throughout the Archdiocese with similar planning efforts. In the coming weeks, we will be gathering feedback from you—our parishioners, parents, staff, and faculty. Parent surveys for the school have already begun.

You can help by participating in the Disciple Maker Index and encouraging others to do the same. All parishioners may respond to the survey until May 10<sup>th</sup> via:

- The link on our website homepage
- Flocknote email reminders
- Kiosks in the Marian Room before and after all Masses
- Paper copies by request at the parish office

May is a month that witnesses a lot of beautiful events. We celebrate Mother's Day and will have a May Crowning ceremony following the 9:00 a.m. Mass on May 10<sup>th</sup>. This is also when the school year begins to wind down. We will celebrate Masses in appreciation for all of our volunteers and also for the parents of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates. Summer will unofficially begin with the celebration of Memorial Day, rightly giving heartfelt thanks to everyone who has sacrificed for our great country. Finally, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will graduate and enter into a new phase of their young lives.

Why do I mention all of this? Because we have so much for which to pray – so much good! We pray in thanksgiving for our moms, people who serve and form us, our country and our youth. With May being a month dedicated to Mary I urge all of us to entrust all that happens, and all that we celebrate this month to our Blessed Mother. As we celebrate Mother's Day let us be sure to thank our Spiritual Mom, the Mother of Jesus, and the Mother of the Church.

Our Lady of the Assumption – pray for us!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor