

From the Pastor's Desk:

We see Jesus today preform a miracle of healing. His intervention breaks down a barrier and opens the man to hear his words and to preach the truth of Jesus. We are all called over an again to continue to let Jesus touch our ears, to let his words and works sink to our hearts, and then to speak out the truth of this encounter. The Eucharist is more than just us coming together as a group - it is a chance to encounter Jesus in a very personal an intimate way. It is up to us to find how to allow this interaction to open our ears and hearts.

You will notice we have put out information about various adult educational opportunities on sheets at the back of the churches. This information is also available on our website. I have been promising that we would put these together and get them to you and we are now able to do so. I encourage you to take advantage of one of the oppotunities over the next year to learn more about the Mass. As I was saying above, the Mass is a central part of our lives as Christians, and many are keeping themselves away - partly because they are misinformed or do not understand it. Encourage anyone you know to attend these with you was well. Also note the video and discussion, book groups, and Bible educational and study opportunities available. We have tried to offer a variety of formats (from one time presentation/discussions to a 6 session Bible education program, to more ongoing opportunities) and a variety of topics. Please explore these.

I have been working to move the process of bringing the former convent (Regan Street) back into use. This is a wonderful facility that would provide educational, office, meeting rooms, and prayer spaces. It would be a true "parish center." It has not been moving as fast as I would have hoped (and was slowed down by the summer schedules). I have been working to get things set with the architect to move forward on the plans for the renovations needed to bring the building up to code. I appreciate your patience. I'll keep you updated.

Connect with this is the issue of handicaps access at our church buildings. This too has gone on too long for my tastes and now that the budget process has been completed and school is open I plan to devote more energy to both this and the convent process. Many things are going smoother with he business end of the parish, and the foundation for ministry has been laid. We need now to build for the future. We need to build and sure up our physical plant, build for a stable and secure financial future, and build our capacity to minister to the people of our neighborhood and the world outside. As I see the firmness of this foundation we are building together, I am confident to begin the work of building up even further. Let us all continue to pray that the Lord open our ears to hear his call, and that we all respond in love.

Peace be with you,

Fr. Steve