

Fr. Martin's Reflection – 09/19/21 Bulletin

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I want to extend a very sincere welcome back to all involved in our Religious Education Program. Students and parents, thank you for choosing Mary, Mother of the Church Parish as your home to learn more about God and your relationship with God. Our volunteer teachers, classroom assistants, and hall monitors, you have responded to the call of God in Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!"

Hmm, many of us probably don't see or believe what we do in our parish as a 'call from God,' more of a response to, 'somebody has to do it.' As I look back over my life, I find that the greatest impact I had on other people's lives wasn't when I reflected on 'is this what God wants me to do,' or 'is God calling me to do this?' It was in seeing what needed to be done and doing it. Jesus said as much in Matthew 25:35ff, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." A response to the needs of others is a response to God's call, whether we are conscious of it or not, whether we believe in God or not; for God's main concern isn't whether we believe in God's existence, but in us believing in the dignity of all God's people and doing what we can to help them recognize their own dignity.

I know this is a long way of saying that your 'YES' to teaching Religious Ed or assisting in the class or hallway is answering God's call, yet it is as if our young people are coming hungry and thirsty to class, needing us to feed them and replenish them in the knowledge and love of God.

I also want to extend this acknowledgement of answering God's call to those who volunteer at the Food Pantry, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Knights of Columbus, or in any of our parish ministries. Your prayerful and financial support is so appreciated. Together we all make our world a better place by simply doing the right thing for others.

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS

I would like to thank all who were involved in our 'Welcome Back Students' celebration last Saturday evening. I was so delighted to see so many young people and their families. A special 'Thank You' goes to Margaret Zola, Carol Schulz and the team that put in such hard work to make it all work so well. I want to acknowledge our celebration sponsors: Altar Rosary Society, CYO of Burlington County, Food Pantry and Knights of Columbus, we are truly grateful for all your support.

Let us reflect on a verse from Psalm 54:6,8: "Behold, God is my helper; the Lord sustains my life. Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness."

Every good wish and blessing for the week ahead.

Fr. Martin