

## From the Desk Of Fr. John

### **Thank you for the great Catholic Youth Camp...Totus Tuus...held this past week.**

Kimberly did a great job in organizing the week and many more volunteered to help...youth and adults. Thank you to everyone who helped to sponsor the team...and provide hospitality for them. They really seemed to enjoy their stay with us!

Each year we try to provide a faith...and fun... experience for our youth and children. This program was designed to provide and reach both of those goals. Youth volunteers come from all over to give of themselves and share their faith with children and youth. They did a great job! Thank you so very much for all that you did!

**Welcome again to Patricia Kirk who is our new Principal for SSPP.** Ms. Kirk moved into her office and her new home during the Holiday Week! It was a challenge to have everything coordinated and meet with the staff as they prepared for the new school year. Thanks for all those who helped!

**This past weekend we made the effort to 're-introduce' our process of stewardship that is spread over four different seasons of the year.** Stewardship as we know is a way of life. It is an all-time effort to be a disciple...especially a 'missionary disciple.' However...certain times of the year lend themselves to a particular focus...or an aspect of that stewardship. This past weekend we focused on our weekly and regular offertory and giving.

The work of discipleship is ongoing. It needs our prayerful, spiritual and financial support. That support needs to be renewed on a regular basis. We often think of our financial support as meeting a need...and there are many. But the spiritual reality is that we have a need. That is the need to give! Think about it. We need love and support. That is a given. However, we also have a need to love and give...we are hard wired to be givers. It blesses us and it blesses those to whom we give care and love.

Thank you for making your commitment to support the mission. Thank you for your spirit of generosity. Thank you for giving of yourself to the

work and mission of the Church.

**The challenge of faith...that was the topic of the Gospel two weeks ago.** The spiritual leader of the community...Jarius...came to Jesus with an urgent request. His daughter was desperately ill and dying. Jarius wanted Jesus to come to his home and lay hands on her to bring her healing. It happened that along the way a woman who suffered for years came up in the crowd and trusted that if she just touched Jesus' cloak she would be healed. Both of these people had such simple and yet profound faith.

Last Sunday gave us the lesson from the Gospel when Jesus returned to his native place...and did not receive a very cordial welcome. They questioned everything about Him. They basically rejected Him. There was no faith...there was no acceptance...there was no healing there! Without that simple and trusting faith, we leave no room for Jesus to bring us healing and life. Jesus does not force Himself on us...but waits for our invitation and openness...remember Rev. 3: 20... 'There I stand at the door knocking...' It is up to us to open that door of our lives and hearts.

**Now we find ourselves sent out...like the disciples...to carry on the mission.** This was not something they were familiar with...except to witness Jesus doing it. However, now they were the ones to carry on what Jesus was doing. They needed to witness the faith and the Good News of the coming Kingdom...reach out to those who were ill or suffering. Bring the gift of healing to the lives of those who were on the fringes of spiritual life...or even life itself.

We might ask ourselves how we are fulfilling the mission. We have seen the banner in church... 'Be, Grow, and Make disciples.' Now all we need to do...is to do it!