

Renew My Church: The San Damiano Cross Keeps Our Focus

A while back, I shared the story of St. Francis hearing Jesus call to him from the San Damiano cross. Praying before this icon of our Lord, St. Francis of Assisi heard Jesus call to him: “Go repair my Church, which, as you see, is falling completely into ruin.”

At first, St. Francis initially took this to mean he was to repair the church buildings of San Damiano. However, he eventually discerned that Jesus was calling him to rebuild the spiritual life and vitality of the entire earthly Church. Likewise, we must see that the future of the Catholic Church is bigger than any of our parish buildings.

This icon of Jesus helps us remain focused on three very important realities as we renew our faith lives, parishes and the archdiocese:



It portrays Jesus speaking to us even though he is dying, which serves as a reminder that we need not be afraid to take up this work even if it costs us something, for Jesus is with us always.

Jesus is surrounded by others, highlighting the fact that, as we take up the challenge of renewal, our unity should not be diminished but strengthened.

Jesus is also featured as the Risen One at the top of the cross – a sign of hope to us that in this renewal, which will require us to die to ourselves and familiar patterns, Jesus is offering us new life and vitality for the future.

Allow the image of St. Francis hearing Christ call to him from the San Damiano cross to guide your own prayer for Renew My Church as we take up the work of renewal together.

Our first GFDT meeting was a “Meet and Greet Session” held via Zoom on Wednesday, July 29th that had about 20 of us in attendance representing all 4 of our parish groupings. It was an introduction to those present at the meeting and an introduction to the RMC process. GFDT members from Mater Christi and St. Mary also met this past Saturday afternoon, August 1st, for a facility tour and history of Mater Christi and St. Mary parishes.

As always, for more information about Renew My Church, visit www.RenewMyChurch.org, or ask me.

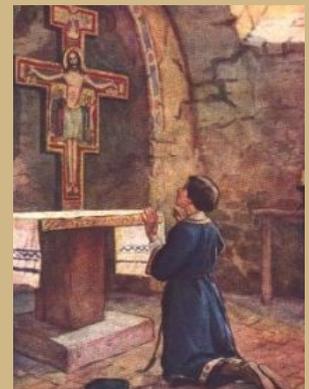
—*Rev. Matthew A. Nemchausky*

The Prayer before the Crucifix at San Damiano

By: St. Francis of Assisi

We adore you,
Lord Jesus Christ,
Here and in all your Churches in the whole world,
And we bless You,
Because by Your holy cross,
You have redeemed the world.

Amen.



How well do you know the other parishes in our RMC Grouping? As we embark on the journey of Renew My Church together, let's take a brief look at the histories of our neighbors...

ST. PIUS X-STICKNEY WHO WE ARE

St. Pius X Catholic Church was founded in 1954 to fulfill the growing religious needs of the Stickney and Forest View communities. The members were mainly of the Eastern European ethnic background. Today, however, we are a diverse community of Eastern European, Hispanic, Asian, and other ethnic groups. Being a small community enables us to come together as a family in Christ by knowing, loving, and serving one another.

Taking the call to holiness from the newly canonized St. Pius X (May 1954) whose motto was, "Restore all things in Christ," we offer many ministries, activities and opportunities to grow in faith and love of God and service to others.

We are a welcoming community of faith. We make every effort to grow in our faith as followers of Jesus and become a living witness of God's love, by our words and actions. Being a stewardship parish, we believe that our time, talents and treasure are God's gifts to us. Our stewardship is using those gifts to serve one another in His name. We are currently witnessing stewardship in action as our parish family members come together to meet the needs of others during this pandemic that we are all experiencing.

Since the founding of St. Pius X countless men, women and children have been introduced to the Catholic faith, have celebrated the sacraments here and have found friendships and encouragement from the people that make up the St. Pius X parish family whose goal is to praise and thank our Lord.

St. Paul states, "It is not enough to know Christ; we must introduce him to others". We welcome all who wish to join our parish family, as we pray and work together to share God's love and restore all things in Christ.

In next week's bulletin we will be featuring the history of St. Mary, another one of our RMC Grouping parishes...



On August 15th, Catholics celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God.

Venerable Pope Pius XII confirmed this belief about the Virgin Mary as the perennial teaching of the Church when he defined it formally as a dogma of Catholic faith in 1950, invoking papal infallibility to proclaim, "that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

Although, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is traditionally a Holy Day of Obligation, since the 15th falls on a Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation for 2020.

We will be celebrating the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Saturday 8:00am daily Mass. Envelopes for the Assumption will be collected at all Masses on August 15th and 16th.